Towards a Sustainable Asia-Pacific

Sustainability Issues Forum
Peoples' Summit on APEC
November 20, 1997
Vancouver, BC Canada

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Workshop Format	iii
Executive Summary	iv
Agriculture	1
Aquaculture/Fisheries	11
Cities	17
Forests	23
Mining	39
Participants' List	51

These proceedings were directly funded by the BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

These proceedings are also available on BCCIC's website: http://www.bccic.bc.ca/bccicweb

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hosts of the Sustainability Issues Forum:

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Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), Ottawa, Ontario

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The Sustainability Issues Forum acknowledges support from the following:

Financial contributions:
BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC)
BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
Canada World Youth
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)
CUSO
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Inter Pares
Mennonite Central Committee
VanCity Savings Credit Union
SIF Participants registration fees

In-Kind Contributions:
BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC)
Government of British Columbia
Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)
Co-Development Canada
CUSO
Canada World Youth
Environmental Law Society of BC
Environmental Mining Council of BC
IMPACS
Inter Pares
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Isadora's Restaurant Cooperative
Mountain Equipment Cooperative
OXFAM Canada (Bridgehead)
Pacific Environment and Resources Centre (California)
Philippine Development Assistance Program (PDAP)
Sierra Club of Canada (Ottawa)
Sustainable Development Research Institute (SDRI-UBC)
Unitarian Service Committee
United Nations Association - Vancouver

Thank-you to the staff and volunteer organizers of the Peoples' Summit on APEC and the other Issue Forums.

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November 20, 1997

Agriculture, Aquaculture/Fisheries, Cities, Forests, Mining

WORKSHOP REPORTS:

The following reporting format for each of the 5 workshops is intended to:

- provide a basis of consistency across the 5 sustainability workshops
- allow for easier analysis of and among the 5 workshop reports
- assist with identification and integration of policy options and themes
- link the workshop themes to the official APEC process
- identify implementation strategies, critical and emerging issues and alternatives and follow-up actions between the '97 Canadian and '98 Malaysian APEC meetings.

Although additional information and categories to the format are welcome, workshop recorders are asked to follow the outline below. This will result in an easier task for the five workshop recorders, the reader group for each of the workshop reports and the SIF coordinator in the compilation of the over-all SIF final report.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Background to the workshop issue ie. mining
   Narrower topics within the workshop issues

BODY OF THE REPORT:

2. Discussions and summaries of the workshop
3. Link the workshop to the official APEC process

OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP:

4. Emerging alternatives
5. Policy options/recommendations (include consensus and dissent, and analysis) A summary.
6. What are the messages for APEC leaders
7. Follow-up to the workshop
   Critical issues for collaboration
   Strategies of working together
   Actions/working together for the Malaysia APEC meetings

PARTICIPANTS:

List the name and sector (youth, academic, development NGO, indigenous, environmental NGO, labour, etc.) in alphabetical order.

Dawn McLean, SIF Forum Coordinator

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES FORUM

Forum Summary

The Sustainability Issues Forum (SIF) was held November 20, 1997, in Vancouver, British Columbia, as part of the Peoples' Summit on APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation). Approximately 275 people attended the SIF and its five simultaneous workshops on agriculture, aquaculture/fisheries, cities, forests and mining issues. The Forum was the culmination of eight months preparation.

Participants came from various sectors and communities around the world - Asia, the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America representing local activists, fishers, farmers, academics, labour, religious, environmental and development NGOs and the community of Vancouver.

The SIF was co-hosted by the BC Council for International Cooperation, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (Asia-Pacific Working Group) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Funded separately from the Peoples' Summit, the SIF secured diversified funding from 12 sources.

Several integrated themes emerged from the 5 workshops that indicate there are profound similarities of the impact of APEC on communities in the South and the North. Some examples of these common threads are:

- The loss of sovereignty by local communities and peoples over resources and the environment, and the threats to livelihoods of millions of people, especially small scale producers.

- Globalization threatens local governments and democracies and therefore there is a need to build local economies and democracies.

Several general ideas emerged in these themes which included:

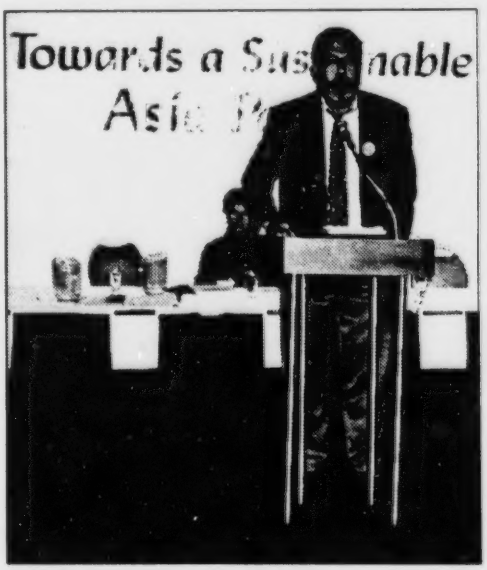
- a need to assert local culture and knowledge to fight globalization;
- people need to increase their knowledge and understanding of the impacts of globalization and the knowledge of the current changing global framework of which APEC is one mechanism;
- create strong links internationally to work together to promote a sustainable future;
- pursue the over-arching value of justice which puts people first in a people-centred development process which meets basic needs such as water, education, health, clean air, and security.

Common actions emerged from the five workshops which included:

- organizing to re-gain community control of resources and livelihoods to meet the need for re-democratization;
- building capacity to increase knowledge to confront globalization processes;
- increase the capacity for policy development to challenge macro-economic policies;
- work on concrete alternatives in home countries north and south to support policy advocacy;
- increase the sharing of information and build international communications networks by using technology, such as e-mail and the Internet. Examples identified were the development of a rapid response capacity on mining and an international agrarian reform campaign;
- increase coalition-building and networking multi-sectorally, both North/South and South/South, to broaden debates and campaigns. There is a need to build strategic alliances and common strategies on actions such as a food security convention.

In conclusion, participants at the SIF agreed there was a need to begin working together now towards the next Peoples' Summit on APEC to be held in Malaysia in 1998. Participants would work for greater understanding and knowledge of APEC and it's role in globalization, share strategies and information multi-sectorally and internationally, and transfer all documents, including evaluations and workshops proceedings to the Peoples' Summit organizers in Malaysia for the 1998 meetings.

Proceedings from the five workshops, including recommendations are also available on the internet at http://www.bccic.bc.ca/bccicweb



Lopeti Senituli

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February 1998

Agriculture Workshop

Leaders:

Marion Villanueva, Philippine Development Assistance Program

Annete Desmarais, OGAP-OXFAM Global Agriculture

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Recorder: Alison Felker

"Agriculture has always been sustainable, but technology has made it unsustainable. What used to be mainstream agriculture is now called alternative agriculture."

Farida Akuter, Bangladesh

AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP

I. Background

The Agriculture Stream started with an opening on "the Myths and Realities of Globalization on Agriculture and Food Security". The participants then moved into three groups to discuss four questions. Issues discussed in the agricultural stream included: impact on local communities, control of food processing and production, concentration of political power in the hands of multinational food producers, loss of cultural diversity through monocultures, the need for agriculture that is sustainable, lack of government support for small farmers, impact of technology and chemical fertilizers on farming, loss of land, the need for agrarian reform in many developing countries, and the need for increased awareness and education in northern and southern countries to offset the impact of globalization in agriculture.

Opening Plenary: The Myths and Realities of Globalization on Agriculture and Food Security

The plenary speakers were:
Fred Tait, National Farmers Union (NFU - Canada)
Oscar Castillo, PAKISAMA (National Movement of Farmer's Organizations – Philippines)
Farida Akuter, UBINIG (Bangladesh)

a. Summary of Fred Tait's plenary address:
The globalization discussion began in Canada in 1988 with the Free Trade Agreement. This was a formal extension of a process that began in WWII. The difference is that people were previously able to reject the process via the election process. Now, clauses of trade agreements limit people's abilities to direct resources of their communities or nations. Other impacts of free trade and globalization include:

> Governments are withdrawing from managing production toward "market management", therefore dismantling national institutions. The Canadian Wheat Board is being dismantled against the wishes of farmers. Agricultural research is driven by corporate profits, not public interest. GMOs (genetically modified organisms) are multiplying and spreading. The food processing industry is being consolidated in the hands of multinationals. There has been a reduction of competition in the domestic market, a reduction in the number of farmers, and increased average farm size and dependency on chemicals. Farm income is decreasing. Communities are being destroyed by the agricultural model being put into place.

Message to other countries:

> Whatever you do, do not consider the Canadian model as one to follow.

b. Summary of Oscar Castillo's plenary address:
Myth: Trade liberalization will increase agricultural output to compete with foreign countries.

Reality: Globalization in the Philippines has led to only modest agricultural growth (one percent) rather than the promised large increase. The Philippines are unable to compete with

subsidies from northern countries. There is no increased employment, and the Philippines is now subject to instability in world commodity markets. Peasants, particularly women and children, are the most vulnerable.

Myth: Trade liberalization will increase employment
Reality: University of the Philippines economist reports there is no basis for this claim. Switching to high yield crops means a decrease in employment for farmers. Instead, the development of small and medium processing industries is better.

Myth: Trade liberalization will lower food costs and increase food supply

Myth: Governments should not be concerned about food security as dietary requirements in the Philippines are changing ie. more consumption of meat products.

Myth: Government will provide safety nets to cushion the effects of globalization

Reality: Filipinos spend 2/3 of their food expenditures on cereal products. There is an increased dependency on chemicals, and elimination of traditional crops through monoculture. Corporations begin to have an interest in the social and environmental agenda, and undermine organic farmers. They have developed tools to secure their interests using our language to sell their model. There has been a shift of agricultural into an industrial capital frame, as well as a polarization between peasants and commercial agriculture. Peasants are being forced onto marginal lands, while protests are silenced through lawsuits against campaigners, and abrogation of rights to information. There is a predominance of export crops with no domestic outlet.

Recommendations:

- Government must increase support of peasant farming to insure growth and productivity
- Increase in market regulation must be accompanied by increased regulation in other areas e.g. land distribution
- Farmers need to organize into self sufficient production units
- Governments must reflect on and respond to the effect that trade liberalization has on marginalized groups, small producers.

c. Summary of Farida Akuter's plenary address (speaking from a farmer's and woman's perspective):

No longer are there farmers, there are agricultural industries instead. There are less women involved in the discussion about agriculture and globalization even though women are ultimately affected the most. It's not taken up as part of the discussion on food security and agriculture. Women are the first to be disempowered.

World leaders are not concerned about hunger and people. The World Food Summit will reduce the number of hungry people, but not hunger at an international level. Individuals are

responsible for their own hunger. The message to hungry people is "You should die". Discussion focuses instead on the right to profit and of multinationals.

There has been a technological shift in food production. The number of farmers is falling because their supports are being taken away. They can't afford to buy pesticides or to irrigate their land, and sometimes they are forced to sell their land. They also must import food, or depend on food aid. Production deficiency – they can't be self-sufficient because of food surplus from the US.

Globalization forces people to change food habits, which changes cultural patterns around food consumption. Food security is becoming an area of investment. Food is "insecure" because people are identified but these people are also the producers.

Agriculture has always been sustainable, but technology has made it unsustainable. What used to be mainstream agriculture is now called alternative agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is a political struggle. Non-pesticide users are fighting against pesticides and fertilizer companies. Since the Green Revolution, they can't get bank loans unless they are using pesticides and fertilizers for farming. We must look at the loss of food diversity.

Seed preservation is important. This used to be the work of women, but now seeds are purchased in markets, and women are abandoned or deserted. However, women are taking the lead. "Keep seeds in your hands, sister". We must fight against seed companies. Women know the traditional aspect of sharing seeds, and of sharing, and this needs to happen at an international level as well.

II. Discussions and summaries of the workshop

The workshop participants were divided into three groups

A. Sustainable Agriculture, Local Markets and Food Security,
B. Civil Society and the Corporate Agenda/WTO 2000 and
C. Agrarian Reform, Peasant Organizing and Empowerment

and asked to address the following questions:

1. What are the specific impacts of globalization?
2. What are specific policies that need to be changed?
3. How are communities responding? What are the specific alternatives or strategies at a local, national and international level?
4. What are the specific next steps? What are our shared strategies?

The following is a summary of the points that were raised in each group.

A. Sustainable Agriculture, Local Markets and Food Security

1. What are the specific impacts of globalization?
It limits people's abilities to plan and direct communities and nations. Withdrawal of government support for managing production leads to "market" management. Reduction of government support for crop research leads to priority placed on increasing company profit rather than the interests of the community.

2. What are specific policies that need to be changed?
In Mexico, the more they are importing the more political power is being gained by the foreign corporations in their country. In the United Kingdom, 70 percent of food is distributed by only six corporations who can value-add and dictate prices, even the type of food fed by the market. Corporations have reasons to manufacture consent and create markets. Producers are transformed to consumers - in the North and West.

3. How are communities responding at a local, national, or international level?
Model building at the community level. Claim making land rights tenure. Sustainable and integrated agricultural agrarian development. Recognize the power of local and municipal governments. Communities are becoming experts in themselves.
Community/regional boycotts of chemical farming.
International networking, useless at governments and corporation level but valuable at the people's level. Difficulty for indigenous peoples in Colombia, trying to set up a forum at the UN. Rediscovery that indigenous agriculture is sustainable. PNG - "decolonize the mind" and promote culture to resist globalization ("land is life"). Influence local government as follow up to food security in Rome '96.

Other strategies: fair trade, extricate self from international markets.
Using Filipino example, need more south-south support to access money from international donors. Build southern network to exchange information and strategies.

4. What are the specific next steps?
Alternative trading arrangements such as buy high - sell low and linking small producers to consumers. Market information systems. Use all opportunities to influence and make representations to government bodies at local and international levels that have to do with food security and agricultural development.

Intensify awareness/advocacy on indigenous ways of producing food. Sustain education awareness campaigns, so that consumers in the north have the power to control demand for certain products. Need for consumer education in the north, such as successful campaigns to ban use of chloroform in milk. Strengthen linkages and action among nations. Personal change. Oxfam Ten Basic Rights campaign. Formation of community food security councils to link to national regulations and international action. Peoples' movements must connect internationally.

Areas of Discussion/Disagreement (note: the only group that reported on points of disagreement)
Agrarian reform, food security re: Farida's analysis in opening plenary.
Difference of analysis as one person challenged the assumption that corporations assert political control as countries become dependent on imports.

B. CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE CORPORATE AGENDA/WTO 2000

1. What are the specific impacts of globalization?

This group did not specifically discuss impacts, but reflected on those presented in the opening plenary.

2. What are specific policies that need to be changed?

Corporate use of intellectual property rights (IPR) systems to enforce their ownership of seeds and genetic resources. Corporations place emphasis on production rather than the process used to produce food. Corporate hold on information, acting in secrecy, they deliberately create dependency on companies for farmers and consumers. Land is reconverted to, for example, plantations. Food is produced for export only. Foreign companies are allowed to amass large land holdings. There is privatization of common property, with support from the state, which silences protesters. Agriculture is being turned into an industrial sector. Propagation of land development sector the focus of agricultural policy on trade. A distortion of language; free trade versus fair trade. Unfair pricing policies, availability of credit. CODEX ALIMENTARIUS is turning into standard used in WTO rule-setting without any public discussion.

3. How are communities responding/what are the specific alternatives or strategies at a local, national, and international level?

Intellectual property rights, direct action - for example, in Ireland with the sugar beets, in India with KRRS and Cargill. Use CBD and WTO at the same time to challenge TRIPS. Challenging patents on life forms through, for example, the WTO 'public/order morality' clause - exempts whole classes of order from WTO jurisdiction: get a government to approach the World Court regarding life form patenting for advisory option (like India). Getting other governments to support India to do this. Communities must also document their own biodiversity. Mexican grain producers blocked roads in Chiapas but the army broke up the demonstration. Internal politics in Mexico - Mexico agreed to fight domestic pricing policies.

4. What are specific next steps? What are our shared strategies?

Push for national sustainability plans that would be used and protected in the international negotiations. More government understanding of issues and consistent implementation. Education about CODEX ALIMENTARIUS: publication of its role, work, monitoring its decisions. Campaign for labeling GMOs (genetically modified organisms). More work on CODEX needed, using observer rights as public. Consumer movement push for labeling. Developing the idea of local food sovereignty, rather than security. The political right to push for genuine land reform. Hunger strikes, media coverage, a coalition of need/community support. Support of FIAN/Via Campesina, an agrarian reform campaign. Campaigns against golf courses, luxury hotels and tourist sites overtaking agricultural land. There is a need for a

campaign on use of public land for commercial forestry (to strengthen all protests that exist). Community supported agriculture bridges the gap between rural and urban life. Work to build space for food security in the WTO agreement. Public education on how production is linked to consumers is needed: We need a food security convention to have international counterweight to the WTO.

C. AGRARIAN REFORM, PEASANT ORGANIZING AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Impact (none specific to this group)

2. What are the specific policies that need to be changed?
Agricultural food policies must include mechanisms to insure distribution of wealth and resources to insure equality. Policies need to be geared for economically sustainable development. Agrarian reform policies and laws must be based on the concept of self: this is an imperative in the development process of any country (agrarian reform).

3. How are communities responding/ What are the specific alternatives or strategies at a local, national and international level?
Local organizing for political exercise at the village level. Getting support of the church sector and other sectors in civil society. Strengthening presence and impact especially at the provincial level. Policy advocacy: land use code, land tenure improvement. Networking with other peasant groups of different political perspectives. Local occupation – preventative measures against local occupation.

4. What are the specific next steps?
Peasant organizations must be involved in any agrarian reform process including planning, implementation and monitoring, and be involved in agricultural and food policy development. Producers role in producing food must be recognized. Support any reorganization initiatives and local cooperation with local government units and other sectors. Allow access to policy mechanisms for food producers.

III. Link the workshop to the official APEC process

No formal link was made in the small group discussions.

Outcomes of the Workshop:

IV. Emerging Alternatives:

Emerging alternatives were presented in questions #3 and 4 of the small group discussions.

V. Policy options/recommendations - a summary.

After the small group discussion, participants went into three new groups to discuss and compare the content of discussions re: Sustainable Agriculture, Civil Society and the Corporate Agenda, and Agrarian Reform. The participants then returned to their original group to summarize their findings. A plenary was held and each of the three groups

summarized and highlighted their discussions and presented policy options and recommendations.

1. Sustainable Agriculture, Local Markets and Food Security

(a) Support alternative trade arrangements based on market information systems, of small community groups. Upscale sustainable food production practices which bring control of the economy back to natural resources.
(b) Use all opportunities to make presentations on food security, sustainable agriculture, development.
(c) Intensify indigenous awareness and advocacy on indigenous way of producing food, consumerism in the north can also be used to do this, personal change in lifestyles particularly in the north.
(d) Strengthen linkages and action among nations, increase sharing of information, maximize information technologies such as the Internet for information sharing and joint advocacy at the grassroots level.
(e) Important to define "ecological agriculture". What are those objectives and what do we agree on? Food security as a principle of global citizenship and give emphasis to this imperative of the local community.
(f) There is a need to strengthen coalitions and community organizations at local, regional and international levels.

2. Civil Society and the Corporate Agenda/WTO 2000

Issue: Control by corporations of I.P.R. or patent holder privilege
Response:
(a) direct action at local level
(b) necessity for work at international level, especially at Convention on Biodiversity as a counterweight to the WTO
(c) Challenge the patent to life forms.
(d) Get a government to bring a case to the World Court to challenge the Life Patent, and get other countries to support India or other countries who are doing this type of work.
(e) Recognize the importance of support for communities protecting biodiversity.

Issue: CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
Response: look at international institutions such as CODEX that need to have public education campaigns. Discuss food sovereignty vs. food security.

Issue: Withdrawal of the state from any industrialization of agriculture.
Response: community supported agriculture producers, local producers in eg. Mexico blocking roads to control pricing policies. Strengthening UN system vs. WTO to have a platform.

Position: No patent on life forms.

3 Agrarian Reform, Peasant Organizing and Empowerment

(a) Accepting agrarian reform as a development imperative
(b) Peasant organizations must be given maximum opportunities for participation at all levels of government.
(c) Use of ODA funds - need for continuous organizing work. Support for strengthening capacities for peasants to effectively engage. Governments should explore alternatives to managing ODA funds.
(d) Sustained effort and action to build solidarity among peasant organizations and other sectors to create more pressure.

VI. What are the messages for APEC Leaders?

1. Food Sovereignty
   - community's capacity to produce its basic food need.
   - community sovereignty over natural resources (land, water, seed).
   - asserting local culture/knowledge

2. Agrarian Reform
   - genuine reform to benefit food producers.
   - peasant organizations./food producers should be involved in the design and implementation of agricultural food policies.

3. Community Mobilization and Action
   - direct democratic action against globalization.
   - Strengthening ecological agricultural movement/highlighting political context.
   - Rebuilding counter institutions and organizations.

4. Opening up Political Space – National/Regional/International
   - consumer education
   - bridging consumer/farmer's needs
   - advocacy to influence policy.
   - build international networks.
   - a Code of Conduct on the Right to Food.

5. Works Related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
   - no to patenting of life forms
   - resisting bio-piracy
   - defending farmers' local knowledge and resources at the community level.
   - community registers of local bio-diversity.
   - develop national sustainability plans.

Aquaculture/Fisheries Workshop

Leaders:

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Debby Coté, CUSO

Angela Rickman, Sierra Club of Canada (Ottawa)

Mae Burrows, T.Buck Suzuki Foundation (Vancouver)

Recorder: Christina Peacock

"The Multilateral Agreement in Investment (MAI) will effectively promote vertical integration of the fishing industry, expand aquaculture and disenfranchise coastal communities throughout the Asia Pacific Region."

Workshop message to APEC leaders

AQUACULTURE/FISHERIES WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION:

This day-long workshop included panels and small group discussions which presented an overview of the impact of aquaculture and fishing on the lives of traditional harvesters of the sea. The workshop also discussed advocacy strategies and consumer education initiatives. The activities of the day brought together Canadians from the fishery, environment, labour and academic sectors and community activists, environmentalists, and human rights workers from Ecuador, the United States, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Together they shared stories of the impact of current realities and strategies on the lives of community members in the Asia Pacific region and discussed successes in voicing their perspectives and effectively slowing down current government and corporate strategies. They clearly affirmed the distinctions between the needs of local communities striving for sustainable development and the interests of the corporate sector.

Summaries of the Workshop:

The similarities between the fishing/aquaculture industries in the north and the south are startlingly apparent. As corporations move towards vertical integration - control of all aspects of the fish harvesting, production, processing, transporting, marketing and distribution - small local producers and local communities are left with little or no access to their common resource base.

Forestry practices, be it in Canada or overseas, have a direct impact on the fishery industry. Be it cedars and fir trees or mangrove forests, trees play a critical role in providing and sustaining fish habitat, protecting water sources, and preventing erosion. The destruction of forests in the north and south are devastating wild fish stocks, and rendering coastlines unusable.

In Canada, the current salmon fishing industry demonstrates the conflicts between the agendas of the corporate sector and small fishing fleets. Sustainability, from a corporate perspective, is defined by profit. Profits are maximized when a company owns and/or controls all aspects of the industry. From a community perspective, the environment is the foundation and limitation of sustainability.

Current government policies promote the corporate agenda. Area licensing and stacking (the Mifflin Plan) have forced out individual fishers and small fishing fleets as licence costs have become unmanageable. Further price controls of wild salmon catches from industry ensures that fleet owners who have acquired licences cannot remain viable.

Simultaneously, salmon farms are being promoted. Consumers in North America and overseas, unaware of the distinction between wild and farmed salmon, are providing growing and lucrative markets. Intensive fish farming requires processed fish feed, the introduction of antibiotics to prevent/limit disease, and this type of aquaculture further pollutes surrounding waters. Along with ecological degradation from forestry practices, aquaculture practices put

wild salmon stocks further at risk through the spread of disease and diminishing ocean water quality.

In the past years, the deterioration of the environment, reduced fish stocks and most recently area licensing as well as a low return on fish harvests have pushed fleet fishers to sell boats and lose employment. Entire coastal communities are affected as people lose their livelihood and communities loose control of their resources.

There has been a growing resistance to government policies and the corporate agenda on the West Coast. Fishers have protested policies and fishery issues by forming a blockade in Prince Rupert and containing an Alaskan ferry boat for days. Fishers have protested in Victoria and Vancouver, and they have occupied the offices of government ministers.

Similar realities are affecting whole coastlines and hundreds of communities in Asia and the Pacific. Aquaculture in the form of shrimp farming is actively promoted by corporations and government as a quick return on investment to small local farmers. Harvested prawns and shrimps from Ecuador, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia are exported to a huge and apparently insatiable market in the north. Where prawns have, until recently been considered a luxury in North American diets, the current production of shrimps through aquaculture have ensured a steady supply, and a shift in diets. Shrimp and prawns are no longer a scarce commodity for North American palates. Traditional fishing methods in exporting nations have been replaced with the harvesting of shrimp eggs for aquaculture.

The promotion of the "Blue Revolution" by corporations and governments has seen remarkable changes in a twenty-year period. Rice farmers and local fishers, encouraged to increase their profits, have cleared their coastal lands of mangrove forests, converted the forest area and rice paddies to large ponds where shrimp eggs are hatched and nurtured. The shrimp require costly processed feed and antibiotics to prevent the outbreak of disease. Diseased prawns are harvested quickly and marketed before they die.

The destruction of mangrove forests, a critical component of the environment for shoreline protection has had devastating effects as unbuffered cyclones and storms hit coastal communities causing deadly flooding. Once the natural barrier has been cleared, erosion rates escalate as delicate shorelines are exposed to strong tidal action. As mangrove forests are destroyed, so too are valuable fish habitat. Mangrove swamps house diverse fish species in all stages of their life cycles. Local fish stocks decline.

Environmental degradation is killing fish, and traditional coastal community food sources are disappearing. In addition, shrimp ponds are unsustainable: rice paddies are converted to fish ponds, pesticides, antibiotics, and shrimp excrement pollute the ponds making them unsuitable for high density shrimp farming up to ten years. Degradation is also being caused by the salination of the land as sea water needs to be brought into the shrimp ponds. The polluted ponds are abandoned and new ponds are established further along the coast. Communities left in the wake have lost traditional sources of food, and livelihoods. The land is made unusable for any other productive purpose as well. The result is devastating.

Farmers and indeed whole communities in these Asia Pacific nations have resisted the expansion of shrimp farms. Protests and resistance have met with threats, imprisonment and death. In Bangladesh, there are estimates that up to 100 people have been killed resisting aquaculture. Corporations and governments continue to be determined to promote the "Blue Revolution". In fact, as Asian coastlines are being used up, there are moves to promote aquaculture along Africa's coastlines. There is hope, however. Whole communities in Bangladesh have successfully resisted shrimp farming. The Indian Supreme Court has banned the expansion of shrimp farms on their coasts.

Aquaculture leads to devastation of the environment, loss of livelihood, and ultimately for those who resist, human rights abuses.

Effective long-term management of communal resources must:
- be sustainable
- maximize employment
- maximize tax revenue.

Communities must regain control of their traditional land base to ensure their own viability as communities.

Links to the official APEC Process:
The Multilateral Agreement on Investment will effectively promote vertical integration of the fishing industry, expand aquaculture and disenfrachise coastal communities throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Outcomes of the Workshop:
Emerging Alternatives

- Consumer education emerged as the primary way to change current corporate trends.
- International coalitions must share knowledge and recent history as aquaculture continues to expand.
- Think global, eat local. There is a need to abandon large-scale export markets and focus on local production and consumption.
- "Take a break from shrimp" - by not buying farmed shrimp, consumers break the cycle of aquaculture expansion.
- Identify or reaffirm links between the north and the south - there are strong connections between salmon and shrimp aquaculture. Fish feed for the farms on the Canadian west coast come from the south.
- Linking aquaculture and health issues will probably have no bearing on consumption patterns. Historically, consumers have not altered consumption patterns in the beef and dairy industry even though they are aware of the use of antibiotics and growth hormones.
- Collective research will strengthen the message and continued coalition work will strengthen the voice.
- In discussing alternatives, we must question whether the alternatives work to change or support current structures.

- Alternative choices must be shared: there is an ethical issue in identifying sources of protein. In the North there is a greater range of options for food sources. We must be cognisant of the impact we are making with our choices. We must question consumption rates.

Summary of Policy Recommendations

- There is an urgent need for producers to receive a fair share of profits - communities must have access to and decision-making capacity with common resource base.
- Environmental issues must be addressed in the expansion of aquaculture - the environment is the foundation and limitation of sustainability: the expansion of polluting fish farms and current forestry practices are having serious impacts on the decline of the wild fishery and on wild fish stocks.
- Social consciences at all levels must be raised. Consumers, coalitions and government must work together against market forces.
- Governments must assure sustainability for the environment and for communities.
- Fish products need to be labelled so consumers are aware of what they are purchasing. (wild/farmed, domestic/imported - from where).

Follow up to the workshop

There is a strong need for and interest in further networking, sharing of resources, hearing success stories, and sharing current information.

Appropriate websites were identified. Coalitions will work to ensure that smaller and isolated groups are included in the information loop.

Workshop participants would like to have a Fisheries Forum prior to the next Peoples Summit in Malaysia.

Actions taken and strategies implemented between this workshop and the 1998 Peoples' Summit will be tallied to provide a realistic "snapshot" of issues in November 1997 and changes/success by 1998.

There is a need to develop common strategies. Resistance strategies and tactics (i.e. boycotts) must be discussed further.

Any strategies must be accompanied by well-planned education campaigns.

National governments must be lobbied to raise awareness. In India, the Supreme Court has banned the expansion of shrimp farms!

Research in identifying the players at a corporate level is critical. Part of the challenge in tracking how to mount effective community resistance, is knowing who owns/is accountable for companies.

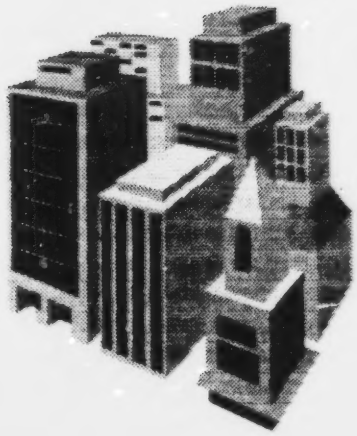
Cities Workshop

Leader:

Art Wright, Sustainable Development Research Institute (SDRI)
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Recorder: Xavier Furtado

"Early in the next century East Asia will be home to most of the world's largest cities, possessing all the characteristics of the world's current megacities: pollution, crime, and strained public infrastructure systems."



CITIES WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION

The discussions of the sustainable cities working group took place against an increasingly stark reality: urbanization, already at an extraordinary level, will only intensify as the economies of the Asia Pacific region continue to grow. Early in the next century, East Asia will be home to most of the world's largest cities, possessing all of the characteristics of the world's current megacities: pollution, crime and strained public infrastructure systems.

In terms of addressing these issues, and deciding where to focus the group's energies, the group agreed that it would be most appropriate to spend time thinking about the root of the problem. Unsustainable cities are merely a symptom; they are the product of poor decisions and earlier mismanagement. If these sorts of core issues can be addressed, only then can we hope for more sustainable cities and societies.

To begin accessing these issues, the group was asked by the chair to outline what they saw as the general objectives of our discussions. Some argued that what is needed is an expanded awareness of the possible directions in which we, as increasingly interdependent countries and societies, could choose. The general public, it was thought, is not necessarily aware that there are alternatives to the status quo. Insofar as we try to arrive at alternatives, it was added that we should attempt to address the basic needs of all people, such as housing, welfare, employment and personal security. Finally, it was also noted that what was needed was a clearer understanding of the link between economic development and social issues.

In identifying some of the specific issues and problems, the group highlighted the following: population pressures; push and pull factors in migration (urbanization); consumption patterns; and issues of governance, such as transparency, power balances and how to relate to the decision-making structure.

Establishing a Guiding Set of Principles

In order to organize and direct our thinking, the group focused on defining a set of principles (or 'values'). Insofar as our values help govern our behaviour, it was thought that defining (or reminding ourselves of) a set of values that would encourage sustainability would be a useful starting point. Suggested values included:

- **People First** --- This involves putting the basic needs of all people at the centre of development priorities and planning. Not only does this speak to issues like governance, but it makes us ask more fundamental questions about the purposes of economic growth and ensuring the basic rights of all. This suggestion was not without debate. There were some who thought that, by putting the needs of people first, we run the risk of ignoring the needs of other species. As a response, it was thought that the word 'habitat' might be better.

- **Common Good** --- By focusing on the common good, we would be able to re-define our own self interests. Some argued that we forget that our own interests are best served by having a sound understanding of what is in everyone's interests (a sort of enlightened self-interest).

- **Full Participation** --- The notion of full participation was meant to focus attention on the importance of stronger local governance. Based on the idea that all people have the right to participate in the shaping of their communities, some argued that stronger decision-making powers must be placed in the hands of local administrators. Moreover, once there is a sense in a community that they have some degree of control (a sense of empowerment), they will tend to take more responsibility for their actions.

- **Consistency** --- Many members of the group pointed out the need to be consistent in their words and behaviour. Not only is it important to avoid purchasing products from those multinational corporations that you believe engage in unfair labour practices, but for those of us who hold mutual funds, RRSPs and pensions, it is important to know in which companies fund managers are investing our money.

- **Security** --- Many in the group also felt that, at the centre of this set of values, there should be a notion of security and the role of governments in this regard. It was thought that the primary role for the state is to ensure the security of its people by providing basic necessities, especially food, shelter and clothing.

- **Justice** --- Encompassing the values outlined above is the notion of justice ... of what is right. While there was some disagreement as to what is justice, many in the group felt that this was a good umbrella and would help provide some context to the other values enunciated.

KEY ISSUES

Having outlined this set of guiding principles, the group then set out to identify the key issues that had to be addressed to ensure the development of sustainable cities. One such factor was the need for citizens to learn more about how to access key decision-making points in government in order to influence the policy process. While some in the group felt that this was a useful strategy (even in terms of possibly modifying the APEC process), others considered it useless believing that the government was not interested in pursuing alternatives.

In addition to doing this, it was also thought that more concerted efforts had to happen at the grassroots level, as it is important to start educating and changing the public consciousness. In doing so, it is important to communicate the scale of the environmental degradation that has occurred thus far in East Asia's cities. As well, it is important to inform people that modifications to their behaviour can make a substantial difference.

Another issue is that of incentives. If the intent is to slow the rate of urbanization, then it is very important for governments to provide economic incentives for populations to remain in

rural areas. This involves arriving at a clear sense of priorities when engaged in the planning/policy process.

This is also true when deciding a role for the private sector. Presently, the private sector seems to be taking on an increasingly prominent role in our daily lives. For example, the increasing role of private funding in public universities is indicative of the enhanced role of the private sector in providing public services, such as urban infrastructure. We must decide if we are comfortable with this new role and where the boundaries are. Given what seems to be the inevitable role of the private sector in economic development, corporations must be legislated to take more responsibility for their actions. Some people in the group raised the possibility of creating corporate codes of conduct. While this idea met with some support, others remained sceptical as such codes are impossible to enforce.

MESSAGES

It was generally agreed that there are two targets for our message. The first is APEC's leadership. Again, there was considerable disagreement here as some felt that APEC's leadership is not interested in considering possible alternatives. However, those in the group who had some experience participating in the APEC process, and/or the public consultation process on the development of Canadian foreign policy (i.e., the National Forum on Canada's International Relations), felt strongly that there was a real opportunity to be heard.

As a result of this disagreement, a second target for our message(s) was identified: the general public, especially those who are less attentive to these issues but who will also be affected by unsustainable development.

In terms of what the 'message' would be, the following was suggested. Again, there was not complete agreement on all parts of this statement, but it was generally agreed that it effectively encapsulated the overall thrust of our discussions:

Contrary to the economic goals of APEC, sustainable cities are those where quality of life is defined in relation to the sustainable use of resources. Within the next 20 years, the vast majority of the people of the Pacific Rim will live in cities. The economies of these urban centres must serve the needs of the people - not the other way around. This reality dictates two things: first, that regional governments and municipal governments require the resources, revenues and materials to meet the basic needs of their populations (i.e., clean water, breathable air, food, shelter, health care, education and income; second, these governments need the regulatory and legislative powers essential to ensure the emergence and growth of alternatives essential to sustainability and ensure the survival of future generations on the planet.

STRATEGIES

In order to, first, communicate the above message(s), and slow those phenomena that lead to unsustainable cities, it is necessary for concerned citizens to organize themselves into effective lobbying/policy action groups. Just as there are institutional frameworks for globalization, we must begin to create our own mechanisms to counter those forces and take local responsibility for our communities.

As noted at the outset of this report, there was no consensus on any of the above points. However, one point that did receive a considerable amount of support was the notion that , in order to properly communicate our agenda(s), we cannot rely on the mainstream media. Instead, we must find alternative mediums of communication, such as public lectures, workshops and/or we must begin to control forms of print and electronic media.

FURTHER THOUGHTS

Despite our very interesting discussion, the group also took the time to recognize its own shortcomings. First, there were a series of important issues that did not receive the attention they deserve. In particular, issues such as gender, class and poverty alleviation were not addressed properly. While some of these concerns were addressed indirectly in our discussions, we were not able to undertake as thorough a discussion as we would have liked. Second, the composition of the group was not balanced. There was a dearth of representation from the developing world. Larger representation from the South would have brought other unique perspectives to our discussions. As well, our discussions would have also benefited from hearing views from business and government policy makers.

Forests Workshop

Leaders:

Fiona Koza, Sierra Club of Canada (Ottawa)

Marty Horswell, Kootenay Conference on Forest Alternatives

Paige Fisher, Pacific Environment and Resources Center (California, USA)

Recorder: Patricia Keays

"The Forest discussion group was as diverse as the forest."

Carol Young, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Malaysia

"There is a need to recognize the integrity of the forest as requiring protection, not strictly economic values based on harvesting."

Workshop Participant

FORESTS WORKSHOP

Reporters:
Paige Fischer, Pacific Environment and Resources Center in California,
Carol Young, Gender and Development Programme at Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Malaysia.

Introduction to the Forests Session – Paige Fischer

"I want to let you know, one outcome important to us was the great turnout. We began with over 50 forest activists, and at no time did the number go below 35.

Forest activists represented over 20 organizations in PNW, US and BC, all over Canada, joined by at least 15 Forest activists from Japan, The Philippines, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Malaysian and Chile.

After diverse panels and lively conversations, we came to a consensus:

- we are fundamentally concerned about APEC being an anti-community movement, linked to MAI and NAFTA;
- **we are fundamentally concerned about APEC's plans to deregulate forest products."**

Panel Presentations

In the process there were two panels. The first panel was to give perspectives from the North.

- Examples were given from the North, from BC and a few from the States.
- Issues were raised as to fast-tracking.
- Common and specific strategies were brought forward, and discussions were on APEC as an antidemocratic institution, and related issues - trade, investments, regulations, treaties.
- Also touched on was the whole complex role of trans-national corporations and government .
- Examples were given on Canada - particularly on deforestation and logging, e.g. in the boreal forest – and actions taken by support groups.
- The economic aspects of APEC were given as background information, as well, i.e. World Trade Organization.

The second panel provided perspectives from other Asia and Pacific countries:

- In the second panel, Panel 2, we had participants from Japan, considering implications for Asia, as well as Indonesia and Malaysia, speaking on the fires in Asia, and the Philippines, considering implications of APEC for Asia.

- It was pointed out that Japan being a larger consumer, with control over markets and timber trades, has a large impact. We discussed implications both for importing countries, and for situations on logging in Philippines and Indonesia, as well as recent forest fires in Indonesia.
- (In different panels, especially this one, we heard how Government policies have directly led to harmful effect on the forests.)
- (The perspective brought from the Solomon Islands was a combination of a voice for the forest, and for people whose lives are so subject to change from APEC but who don't know it because they're struggling for basic survival, and of the importance of working together on strategies.)

Having heard the two panels, and after a slide as well as video on forests/logging in B.C., the session split into workshop groups, discussing recommendations on public participation, accountability, trade liberalization import standards; and promoting value added trade.

Roundtable Discussions on Key Topics

In each small group there were diverse discussions. It was difficult to come to a common consensus surrounding the whole issues of APEC and such things as subsidies. **HOWEVER, each small group identified some significant points.**

- ▶ On Public Participation: **the discussion group identified the need for people to understand more on the basics of APEC, to address the whole issue of increasing public participation. Suggestions for strategies were given: citizen groups, community groups, NGOs, and indigenous people's could participate. Some mechanisms were identified.**

- ▶ **On Restructuring APEC for accountability:** it was a diverse discussion and a number of viewpoints were given on such key questions as whether to reject APEC, or try to work with/within it. Conclusion was there could be room to intervene *(and we have to use the windows of opportunity we do get).
  - Various proposals were brought forward as to how to restructure APEC, to ensure in particular that these key issues were always addressed: issues of human rights, and the impact on communities as result of policies, i.e. logging, or reforestation.
  - Critical to the discussion group was recognition of local community rights to protect forests, also tenure rights over them.
  - HOWEVER, the agreement came up with that APEC's initiatives should not supersede communities', the rights of the communities closest to the forest resources themselves. They are the ones who understand best how to manage, and to oversee the resource.

- **<u>On Trade Liberalization and Import Standards</u>:** The group had quite a **lengthy discussion on the whole issue of trade liberalization, whether it should be pursued in the context of APEC or whether the time would be better spent coming up with our own vision, understanding trade itself.**
  - **Strategies** supported by the Forests Session participant group were felt should be broader, not just **limited to one APEC statement.**
  - **For our work to be covering broader issues and reaching wider usefulness, we need to bring these messages back to our communities to make them understand this APEC.**
  - **For many people who are not so fortunate to have funding to come here, they won't know what's going on. It is good for us to take the message back.**
  - **On Communities, we felt it is important that we recognize community rights and tenure rights of forest resources. All APEC decision-makers must look deeper into forest-dependent communities and indigenous people.**

<u>On Full-Cost Pricing and Subsidies</u>: in the discussion of forest products and resources, a key issue is how not to view "the resource" only in terms of monetary value, but to recognize other valuables. Discussed issues for attention include:

- **PROMOTING VALUE ADDED TAX;**
- **Continuing to discuss and establish a common understanding of What IS SUSTAINABLE? Is it in terms of yield? management of forest products? This discussion group felt it must be seen in a more integrated sense, with ecosystem related to lives and livelihoods, especially those dependent on the forests.**
- **Capacity of the forest-dependent communities, and indigenous communities, who live physically and in other ways closest to the forest, closer than most of us, that capacity must continue to be developed to work with these global trade issues and forces.**
- **On Certification and trade restrictions, the group felt it is difficult to come up with a uniform or common standard. It proposed that minimum standards, reference to examples, and the experiences of communities themselves be "triangulated" to come up with a working code of practice.**

Outcomes and Next Steps

Having these diverse viewpoints presented, the exchange of experiences, sharing among the countries and organizations we represent, as well as individually, we came out of the session with a commitment that **whatever happened in our discussion, will not stop today. We must follow up, continue even when the People's Summit has ended.**

Strategies and commitments made include these:

- build a network around PAC RIM and learn quickly about APEC - it will happen;
- electronic information / speed up - we can form an electronic information and networking group;
- network; campaigns - we might follow up on joint campaigns;
- MAI, also follow-up, and on climate change, which there wasn't enough time to discuss in the workshop, although it was raised as a parallel theme;
- DEDICATION is to make the link between globalization and trade, but also TO COMMUNITIES, because when we talk about the forest, we are talking about people whose lives are dependent on them;
- PREVENT APEC from superseding community control or ancestral control or rights to resources and entitlements to access to those resources.

We also feel there is a need for us to deepen our discussions, on persistent important questions like sustainability, should there be subsidies, what are the standards? These are our issues, that we need to monitor as well as to learn more about.

OUTCOMES of the FORESTS WORKSHOP

Background on OUTCOMES

⇒ The standard framework for the report structure for the five workshops in the *Sustainability Issues Forum* is appended for reference. OUTCOMES is one of three main sections in that framework.

⇒ The other sections are INTRODUCTION, and BODY OF THE REPORT. INTRODUCTION and BODY OF THE REPORT are in the sections previous to this one in the Forests Workshop [APEC: Special Session on Forests] record.

⇒ The present document contains input on the main points which were identified by organizers for recorders, with respect to OUTCOMES, drawing recurring themes from the notes on panel presentations and report-backs.

⇒ The framework provided does not precisely match the topics that were discussed or the way in which the special session on forests developed. That framework identified these topics as categories for recording:

Points Identified for Recorders by Organizers

1. **Links between the workshop and official APEC process**
2. **Emerging Alternatives**
3. **Policy Options (and Themes) Recommendations (including consensus and dissent, an analysis) Summary**
4. **Messages for APEC leaders**
5. **Follow up to the workshop**
   - **Critical issues for collaboration**
   - **Strategies of working together**
   - **Actions of working together for Malaysia APEC meetings**

A brief comment is made here about the Forests Workshop proceedings and outcomes, in relation to each topic and how input on it has been collected. These are the recorder's comments. The following section is Collected Input on key aspects of those themes, from the workshop itself.

1. Links between the workshop and the official APEC process

The people represented and the organizations they represent reject APEC in a fundamental way, and are concerned about legitimizing such multilateral processes of which this is one (viewed with MAI, WTO), by making recommendations to it.

On the other hand, neither do the strategists and activists want to miss out on the windows of opportunity that present themselves to use the presenting media opportunities, and take core messages and actions/stands back to our communities of reference, and our home organizations.

The proposal for fast-tracking forest products brought forward by four countries including the US and Canada was a pressing priority requiring immediate attention. Also important to many is ensuring continuity in the network and relationships between now and building towards the next APEC meetings, in Malaysia.

In general, participants in the special session on forests recognize a continuing link between their work and APEC. It existed before, it exists now, and mobilizing to prepare for the next engagement in Malaysia and beyond is part of the global-level strategies in which organizations working for change must be connected for coordination.

The time necessary to fully develop and set priorities for links between the workshop and APEC includes expanded opportunities for the following, in future working meetings on this issue:

a) exchanging experiences and learning from each other about the context of APEC and the specific situations with which people are working – specifically, strengthening and building the opportunity for people from more oral traditions to engage equally with more print-based and organized participants (clearly we need both; abbreviated time for the international guests in their panel presentations, plus difficulties of presenting complex material across second languages in shortened time periods, took their toll on the process;

b) developing strategies together for longer-term joint action; international visitors in particular identified learning from each other, developing strategies together as being their main interest – being part of networks is recognized as being linked to survival, as well as the success of campaigns;

c) developing a core set of messages and responses to take forward to the *Sustainability Issues Forum;* widely agreed as a communications / public advocacy and education campaign issue is the need for core messages, a serious strategy to inform people and motivate them to action;

d) meeting other individual objectives (such as signing on other allies in joint campaigns, other such legitimate networking goals).

Structured transfer mechanisms will strengthen the process, but nothing takes the place of time spent together, working together.

2. EMERGING ALTERNATIVES

Alternative FOREST PRACTICES and TRADE POLICIES with respect to forests are identified in particular in the set of notes from the afternoon report-backs from round-tables.

> Changes in use of subsidies, towards positive ends; public education and awareness; full-cost accounting and other economics-related measures which quantify the parts of the environment and values that can measured that way, along with legitimate recognition of the aspects necessary for sustainability – of the environment most broadly, of the forest as a living ecosystem, of the people who live close to and work in that forest; expanding the involvement of people who live closest to the resource and forest base in decision-making about it, increasing value-added measures, maintaining protective measures that cover threats to long-term forest health or survival (such as releasing pests of untreated whole-log imports are permitted), or using subsidies to value-added local producers to increase the timber supply available for community based economic development. All these are part of the array of alternatives pooled by participants in the workshop. By collecting these in the record, the November 1997 event will contribute the planning documentation for the Malaysia APEC preparation of forests activists, recognizing this as the continuing process it is.
>
> In terms of alternatives, an emerging alternative for maintaining and strengthening relationships in the networks of organizations at the November 1997 session is that of being a network. Interest in working on issues together was clear. Supporting each other on achieving shared goals may be one incentive for stronger networks. Electronic communications permit about 2 / 3 of the participants to stay in touch.

3. POLICY OPTIONS and Recommendations

No explicit recommendations were made. An agreement was loosely made to continue to work together, and to develop a strategy to do so, incorporating the ideas from this session and using core concepts to weave a set of messages simple and direct enough to work with the broad public identified as needing to hear that message.

The forests workshop group agreed on certain core messages to take forward to the evening plenary session. These are in the record of that report-back. Some of those points relate to policy (i.e. a fundamental rejection of the fast-tracking proposal being made by Canada with three other countries for forest products).

The workshop group also agreed to keep working together on strategy, including no doubt on strategy linked to policy. This work is continuing. Key points of concern identified in the special session on forests to be taken forward include the following.

- Elimination of the opportunity for government policies to maintain or have meaningful influence is one of the major concerns about global economic agreements, in relation to forests.

- Policy options for national, provincial, and local governments are of critical concern in relation to multilateral trade agreements, across levels of government as well as different sectors of policy (trade, foreign affairs, development assistance). A strategy for working on coherent positive policies as well as continuing to analyze policies that are being passed (such as was done in the Briefing Materials for the November 1997 working session on forests in relation to APEC).

- The Briefing Materials and materials prepared for the workshop – both included in the Forests Workshop record – contain a number of specific policy options, and background on policy implications of components of global trade agreements for forests. These materials are worth reading, copying more widely, distributing as part of a kit with distilled "CORE MESSAGES" ... all work for the future.

- In particular, concern from the Forests Workshop participants in the *Sustainability Issues Forum* is that such agreements restrict the possibility of these levels of government controlling their own affairs. Corporate structures will enjoy the rights to sue these governments for measures taken that limit their economic benefits from what, with respect to forests in much of the Asia Pacific which belong to the people.

- Policy options with respect to FOREST POLICY in most of the countries represented and in the work of most of the organizations have been responding to negative policy options being pursued by the Government of the day. In the US, a recent victory was after decades of no progress, cut-backs, revoked bills, suspended protections, encroachments on the net that was in place.

- In British Columbia, the situation is a more difficult one of having unenforceable policies, and thus unimplementable policies, coupled with jurisdictional slippage between federal and provincial and other jurisdictions – at the same time as down-loading is occurring. Of equal concern was an accelerated media blitz changing what should be a policy discussion to continuing public relations. Getting better able at presenting complex policy issues visually, in media campaigns, through strengthened capacity to monitor and report to the public, were all identified by different representatives of organizations in the workshop as part of their priorities right now.

- Policy options in countries where activism is treated as a crime are less clear – how <u>does</u> one develop a strategy to advocate with one's government when it sends video cameras to international gatherings to capture images of demonstrators, captures the demonstrators themselves when they go home. The greater the degree of repression or lower the degree of economic development, the fiercer the push back and out of activists and organizations representing counter interests (as they perceive them). While good information and reliable data are essential, so are networks of mutual support. These are of much greater significance to some members of such a network than others. Making sure representatives of such organizations are part of continuing strategy development is a continuing challenge, even with electronic communications

and some available money for "strengthening civil society" such as through convening these forums and similar events.

- Policy changes are needed with respect to forest policy, at all levels, to recognize ecological values, and policy implementation changes are needed. A positive presentation of policy alternatives in a coherent strategy of which trade is an appropriate sub-part, along with other inter-connected areas of public policy, is the general direction articulated and agreed to by the group. Bringing forests decision-making closer to the community level, and strengthening the voice and opportunities for indigenous and aboriginal people to be directly involved in decisions about their forests, are two examples

4. Messages to APEC Leaders.

"NO" to the fast-tracking of forest products. YES to more open, democratic processes in negotiating economic agreements.

NO to the exclusion of social and environmental / livelihood and sustainability considerations from the global economic agreements. YES to more transparent cost and benefit analyses and explanations for forests, resources and values.

NO to the absence of democratic mechanisms, transparency, or representation of a legitimate cross-section of necessary perspectives, views and interests at the decision-making table on matters with repercussions and implications far beyond the narrow frame economics sets for itself. YES to involvement of a wider community in APEC.

NO to the continued narrowing of interests taken into account in relation to forest policy and benefiting from past and present policies and practices. Those who were enriched by taking the forest resource in inappropriate ways in the first place should not be able to reposition themselves to benefit from Government redirection of public resources, when the local communities and workers who depend on the forest base can be shown to continue to be the losers. This can be consistently shown to be the case from Sarawak to British Columbia – and NO to global markets structured so that two such diverse places as these two should be shown to have approximately the same stumpage rates. YES to full-cost accounting which also permits meaningful recognition of the non-quantifiable values associated with healthy forests.

NO to the idea that economic policy can be divorced or factored separately from environmental policy, and social policy. It can't. Economic policy that supports steady continued harvesting of the world's forests is unsustainable. Public policy that supports such a direction is not operating as a reasonable government should operate, and forest activist organizations see their role in part to be educating the public to increase accountability for delivery on better forest policies and management. YES to an integrated "sustainable livelihoods and planet" policy, with long-term resource and land use planning integrated with social and community development policy.

NO to the idea that the groups and people committed to the forest are legitimately excluded from forums such as APEC meetings where decisions are made that affect us all, and the planet. "These decisions are too important to leave up to the politicians ... and the bureaucrats". An educating, engaged citizenry has been identified since "sustainable development" was first introduced into the wider world's vocabulary as being fundamental, a requirement, essential, necessary, critical. "Sustainable development" has metamorphosed into "sustainable yield" and "sustainable harvesting". "Development" has not been able to break out of its shell of "economic development and rehabilitation" cast at the Bretton Woods agreements after the second world war – "sustained growth is an oxymoron." YES to strengthened public education, public awareness and mobilization for change.

5. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORKSHOP

Collected* Input

"*Collected" refers to the fact that the following points and statements were made throughout the Forests Workshop, at different times. Time limitations restricted formulation of a consensus. Source documents for these excerpts are summary notes from the two panels and the two report-backs (from round-table groups to the Forests workshop plenary, and from the Forests workshop to the *Sustainability Issues Forum* plenary, in the evening).

General agreement on two things was expressed and endorsed:

1. interest in continuing to meet as a network; commitment to strengthening effectiveness at working on issues jointly, as a network, as well as at getting better at communicating core messages to help achieve our various objectives;
2. a rejection of the fundamental principles of APEC and other multilateral global trade agreements and their effects on people and the environment.

The three main themes identified for the reporter covered in this section are:

- Critical issues for collaboration
- Strategies of working together
- Actions of working together for Malaysia APEC meetings

Input on these three themes is organized into the following sub-sections:

- **Priority Needs for the Network as a Group of Activist Oriented Organizations**
- **Working Together to Develop Strategies with Core Messages**
- **Core Messages as Part of Strategies – *Examples of the kinds of core messages that such a network could develop, over time***
- **Some Main Issues Identified in Relation to Forests and APEC – and suggestions for strategies, continuing**
- **Main Issues in Moving from a Single-Organization Orientation to a Network**
- **Strategies to Include Looking and Working Forward to Malaysia APEC Meetings**

Priority Needs for the Network as a Group of Activist Oriented Organizations

"Rather than drafting a piece of paper, we need to draft a strategy, to motivate the public. We're dealing with a lot of abstracts here, and in the long run, they might ignore our papers, like they ignored other papers."

Working Together to Develop Strategies with Core Messages

1. **Develop and state what we are for,** not solely what we are not for, with respect to multilateral economic agreements such as those for which APEC exists, and WTO, such as the MAI.
2. **Start with statements of values** – what's good for the community, the environment, the earth; and keep that always in the frame of reference.
3. **Expand "What's the Alternative?"** – principles of fair/equitable social development linked to economic policy; a set of "just principles to guide trade between countries";
4. **Develop a CORE MESSAGE PACKAGE** educating and motivating the public regarding APEC and MAI, WTO – all this level of globalization and what it means. "The message has to be **very simple, and the strategy has to be based on core messages.** The conservation community is not very good at this."
5. **Take advantage of opportunities that present themselves**, such as this window of opportunity to take the media's attention while it is on APEC, to make straight/direct/simple statements, **at the same time as we develop a long-term strategy**. "Because this is the moment".
6. **Know the audience you're aiming for.** In relation to doing something "in the moment" relating to taking a joint stand on APEC and forest products or fast-tracking, we have to do something, as best we can. THEN, "We want to go back to our communities and say, 'We did this – and the real audience is these at home."
7. **Accept that in the end "it will depend on each of us, as individuals, to take it forward.** The *People's Summit* won't even be depended on to take it forward." In relation to being there for the long-term on forest advocacy and protection, this is the core that constitutes "local" struggling to develop
8. **Consider subsidies as potential positive measures** through which local development or forests protection measures can be implemented – rather than rejecting them out of hand. What needs to be rejected are subsidies to trans-national corporations by governments who need to represent the public interest and responsibility.

Core Messages as Part of Strategies - *Examples of the kinds of core messages that such a network could develop, over time:*

1. We do have problems with APEC.
2. We don't want to be legitimizing APEC by making recommendations to it.
3. We know some things about what we want to see happen.
4. We need to develop those into core messages, as part of a long-term strategy.
5. Some of the core messages about what APEC and similar agreements must do include the needs to:

- include concerns of indigenous and aboriginal people in plans, analyses and decision-taking;
- involve local / community people and their interests in decision-making, as well as resources / forests management;
- recognize the integrity of "the forest" as requiring protection, not strictly economic values based on harvesting;
- place sustainable life needs of the planet and ecological maintenance at the centre of calculations about economics.

6. There is interest in continuing to work together as a network of advocates.
7. Messages to expose the destruction and crimes that have occurred, and which still occur, need to stress the global connections that already exist – "we are all tied together; all of us are responsible for everything".
8. In the positive things towards which we are working, we need to include;
   - building communities on issues;
   - involving communities on anything we work on, say, do, that affects them;
   - building safeguards and protections for the forests, multiple ways;
   - forming alliances around issues, such as on positive subsidies;
   - including gender analysis and community impact analyses along with environmental impact analyses.
9. Strengthening implementation and enforcement of the international commitments that are already in place, such as the Convention on Biodiversity, is a priority.
10. Getting the conventions that have not been signed, or if signed which have not been ratified, is a priority front for collaborative work. All organizations can work on their own governments on this matter – part of working together on issues that will benefit us all.

Some Main Issues Identified in Relation to Forests and APEC – and suggestions for strategies, continuing:

1. **Loss of Sovereignty**. "Democracy is being usurped; citizens have no input on big business." Citizens have been interested in the MAI campaign – 500 came out to a meeting in Saskatchewan on this issue. Outlining what may happen in a future shaped to APEC, MAI, WTO needs to be part of the core messages.
2. **Ecological Effects of both Present Harvesting and Forest Replacement**
   Maintenance of intact forest ecosystems is not part of economic plans or forecasts. It needs to be. Even economic costs must consider more values and factors in their calculations, i.e. Opportunity costs removed from the realm of possibility by present practices – such as recreation and tourism dollars - - must be projected using existing trends which reinforce fundamental restructuring is underway. Natural forest replacement by engineered plantations, monocultured, often with exotic species, raises other environmental or ecological as well as public policy questions. Both need a look.
3. **Limitations of Accepting a Single Focus, such as "Economic"**
   Social and environmental costs and benefits must be adequately factored into decision-making by all the agents involved in the process. Each involves a different set of values

and considerations for decision-making, which APEC and processes like it are deliberately structured to exclude from the table.

- An umbrella strategy is needed – and may be in the process of developing, with the meeting scheduled after this workshop day, as planned in the closing session.
- Within such a strategy, ways in which existing limitations of accepting a single economic focus can be addressed as a priority front for action will need to be developed and established together.
- Specific suggestions made during the day-long special session on forests included, for example, demanding or requiring that delegations have forest experts on them, as key advisors, and that advisory functions for activist networks or groups in civil society (academic, non-profit community group networks).

4. **Erosion of Opportunity for Forest Protection and Economic Control.** Loss of sovereignty and control over decisions about resources such as forests within global agreements such as APEC and MAI include that local communities could lose control over and access to forests in their home areas. Such agreements, as is being demonstrated under the North American Trade Agreement, may leave governments open to suit by corporations for loss of revenue.
5. **Over-riding Interests of Indigenous People, Community Members.** Shareholders and corporate interests take precedence over interests of the community, the citizens, or the workers in the industry.
6. **Public Awareness, Education, Consciousness and Belief**. "People just do not believe you when you try to raise these issues." "Put tangible examples behind it. So you can always link it to what is happening HERE, in the listener's community."

Some Issues in Moving from a Single-Organization Orientation to a Network

➔ "How do we incorporate working on our own groups, and be part of networking – choosing to support each other?"

➔ "How can we work on multilateral agreements, AT THE SAME TIME, showing the muscle of local organizations, continue to work in our own ways to support that local level of activity?"

Strategies to Include Looking and Working Forward to Malaysia APEC Meetings

➔ "How do we develop SOCIAL MUSCLE, as a group, working to something concrete in April (and the Malaysia APEC meetings, next rounds of these international trade meetings)?"

➔ Those who could meet the following day to continue discussions of core messages and strategies for ongoing networking made plans to do so by the end of the workshop, anticipating a lead-up to prepared engagement at the next round of meetings.

➔ How can those who sponsor, organize and pay for participation in such networking events for activists be convinced that several more days time spent strategizing, after an equivalent amount of time updating and briefing each other as occurred in the November 1997 meetings will yield multiple benefits and spin-off effects? Lessons learned from this working meeting as part of a "sustainability issues forum" concentrating on forests and trade issues need to be analyzed, and taken forward to increase the effectiveness of the next working meeting. This is part of strengthening capacity of the network which is a mixed

group of organizations to function as a network and increase effectiveness and impact by working together.

- The sets of skills, the internal design for collaborative processes such as developing joint strategies, consulting with and briefing each other, are respectively more sophisticated and more flexible than most highly-structured processes which place time management at the heart of the design process. Some suggestions from the recorder are included in the November 1997 record of the FORESTS WORKSHOP, for dividing up facilitation and other tasks in future working meetings. No doubt the facilitation group, organizers and presenters will also have their own ideas and plans in place for learning from experience, and building the capacities needed for functional networking on forests issues in the context of multilateral global trade agreements and a dominant economic monopoly on machinery of public policy.
- Perhaps an expanded discussion in Malaysia on how to be steadily more effective CHANGE AGENTS could be considered. Core messages, a strategy are critical. So are the skills of influence to use such things, when they can be developed. This is a rich area for exchange and learning from each other – strategies that work, and the skills and competencies that carry them.

Mining Workshop

Leaders:

Nedjo Rodgers, Environmental Mining Council of BC (Victoria)
Myriam Cabera, CoDevelopment Canada (Vancouver)
Stuart Wulff, South Pacific Peoples Foundation (Victoria)

Recorder: Gary Henkelmann

"The goal is to change the mining industry into one which puts people, not profit, first."

Workshop Participant

MINING WORKSHOP

OPENING REMARKS

The first question posed at the mining workshop was in the form of a statement: 'sustainablility and mining do not go together'. Nonetheless it was agreed that mining is happening in every one of the APEC economies. And that high on the 'trade liberalization' agenda of APEC is the goal to "free up mining investment", whatever that may mean.

Two basic aims of the workshop were outlined:

(1) to respond to APEC; more generally to 'globalization', and more specifically to mining, and

(2) to share stories and perspectives with the objective to strengthen our knowledge and to make links.

Melissa Bengullo-Morales (Center for Environmental Concerns - Philippines) noted that "the gap between rich and poor is widening. Transnationals continue to profit and still not work for the interests of the people. This is an example of market forces taking control of our lives. The Philippines' government has now liberalized mining too, like other APEC countries. By sharing 'mining stories' with people from Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and here in Canada, we know of the displacement of indigenous people and others, the loss of community control, and the environmental damage. We know that the interest of the Filipino and the Philippines' environment is compromised by mining. Yet the problem for the first world and the third world remains the same: the standard of living. These issues need to be addressed with caution, seeking benefits for all, and remembering that only once will our earth be wasted."

Chris Harris (Mineral Policy Institute - Australia) said that his organization was formed out of concern about the mining industry in the Asia Pacific region, most specifically in the areas of human rights and environment. "There is major mining expansion in virtually every country of the region; it is not an isolated activity."

- Mining in Vanuatu has increased 4-fold in two years; in 1995 there were nine mines and in 1997 there are 42.

- In the Philippines, in 1994, there were four foreign companies, and by 1996 this increased to 20; now there are over 100 Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAA) covering 30% of the land area.

- In Indonesia, from 1992-95, coal mining increased by 80%, copper by 58%, gas by 77%, and gold by 108%; in 1993 there were 66 Contract of Work (COW) opportunities while in 1997 there were over 250.

- In Vietnam there has been a 660% investment increase.

- In Chile a 75% increase in copper mining has been projected for 1995-2000; exports of copper increased 41% in 1995.

- On island nations, like the Solomons, it is very difficult for governments to address the issues and control the impacts because administratively the capacity does not exist.

The point is that there have been huge increases in mining activity over the past 5-10 years directly related to trade liberalization. In most cases the vast majority of the benefits flow to the political classes with poorer people and especially women and indigenous people tending to be marginalized and worse off.

The forces driving this upsurge in mining are:

- trade liberalization
- investment liberalization
- weak environmental laws
- gold prices
- richer deposits in non-industrialized countries

From 1988-1993, 75 countries changed their mining laws to meet the demands of foreign investment. As one country liberalized mining laws others were persuaded to do so as well in order not to be left behind. This usually meant relaxing foreign ownership, removing regulations, providing tax holidays, and so on. In Africa 33 countries have recently liberalized and standardized their mining laws, under UNDP (United Nations Development Program) coordination, in order to facilitate mining development.

The perception has been that the impacts of mining are localized but this is untrue. The impacts are very large, very widespread, and have major social and environmental consequences:

(1) There was civil war in Bougainville with 122 executions and 40 villages burnt; in Freeport 900-3000 (depending upon whether one uses government or non-government statistics) died in reprisals in 1977. During the 8 months from October, 1994, to June, 1995, 16 people were killed.

(2) In Ok Tedi 400 square kilometres of forest and 80 kilometres of river downstream from the mine have been drastically affected, with that stretch of the Ok Tedi River effectively being totally devoid of aquatic fauna.

(3) In Grasberg/Ertsberg (aka Freeport) there is total destruction of the Ajkwa River and its tributaries.

(4) At Marcopper 145 metric tonnes of tailings are spread over 50 kilometres of bay floor; 35 kilometres of the Boal River is biologically dead.

(5) At Panguna (Bougainville) all aquatic life in the 480 kilometre river system is dead.

The scale is very large, social impacts are large, and mining is accelerating.

The principal beneficiaries and instigators of these changes and the associated impacts are the large transnational companies, which have persuaded governments to subvert or abrogate their national responsibilities to control mineral development." At the end of these presentations it was agreed that the issue is 'what can we do about mining' not 'can we stop mining'. There is a need to distinguish between what is current and what is possible; it may be possible for mining to be more sustainable. The issue remains how can we confront the large corporations; this is a move from 'no to mining' to 'how do we engage the mining interests and companies to strive for community sustainability. Perhaps this workshop should be called ' Ecological Sustainability and Mining'.

SHARING OF CURRENT ISSUES

1. **Mexico**

"In Mexico there is a lot of concern about NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). One of the consequences of NAFTA is mining development and the growth of investment for mining. In the past 6 years there has been $5 billion US mining investment by Canadian, American, and Japanese companies. There has been 50,000 square miles of mining concession for gold, silver and other minerals. The strategy is to: (1) apply pressure to achieve environmental standards, e.g. lobby Congress and other governments, and (2) increase cooperation and communication between trade unions, and civil society in general, for solidarity in applying rules to mining. To acheive these goals NGOs from more developed countries have a great responsibility."

2. **Philippines**

"In the cordillera, concerns for indigenous people have always been about land. In terms of mining, the government allows mining companies to operate on indigenous land but refuses to recognize indigenous land rights. Mining is a bigger burden for indigenous people now. An alarming trend is the free and open access for mining companies and related to them the human rights' violations. Indigenous people are not against mining per se because we do it ourselves however we are against large-scale mining which destroys the mountains and water. Traditional mining methods have been proven to be sustainable. Another question for us however is 'what are the companies going to do with all that gold?'; we understand where it is going when we mine it. A major concern for us is the role of the United Nations' agencies; for example, the UNDP has promoted mining and hosted mining companies in the Philippines to see what our country has to offer."

"On the island of Marinduque 50% of the island has been destroyed by Marcopper; this includes forest, coastal zones, and production systems from the uplands to the coast. 40% of the protein source used to be from the river; one year later there is absolutely no change at all in the damage to the river and the water system. The people have only received some small infrastructure (water) from the company. The biggest problem is the lack of health benefits and up to now there are 40 cases of people with lead poisoning. The company's response was that they would not provide money for medication and testing because the Philippines' government had made it allowable to dump tailings where they did. Unfortunately the local community had no control over the mining and the resources. As well the province only received a small share of the money while the national government gained lots of money. The

company even received a 5-year tax holiday on investments from this mine. In this case the state would not regulate the mining company and would not return the profits to the people. The key issue is who was the operating company (not who owned it or who the stockholders are) and it has been consistently Placer Dome over the past 20 years. Now the community wants Placer Dome to do something about all the damage."

"A further question on this is: what is the Asian Development Bank (ADB) doing, making loans to Marcopper to develop copper mines, while at the same time, making loans to rehabilitate the damaged watershed from copper mining?"

3. **Papua New Guinea**
"Mining, specifically by Placer Dome, is causing environmental damage by their disposal method. The PNG government made legislation to prohibit locals (who live downstream) from making legal cases overseas against the companies. For us, this is not just. Mine tailings are disposed directly into the environment, i.e. rivers and ocean, and this is our source of livelihood. Many people have been affected but particularly the indigenous people. Other new legislation says that everything under the land belongs to the government and this is directly against indigenous land claims. The feeling now, in PNG, is that if you say anything against the state you will be in trouble."

"The Melanesian Trust is an umbrella organization of community groups and NGOs which provides linkages and networking about environmental issues related to mining."

4. **Canada**
"'We have a lot of environmental issues due to mining. One of the most common problems is acid drainage, which contributes to toxic waste sites, even though the companies supposedly have highly advanced technology to work with. At present the clean-up bill for abandoned mines is $6 billion Cdn. We do have an Environmental Assessment Process which in theory is world-leading however in reality is very flawed. The mining industry and associations played a major role for deregulation and this has degraded the environmental system; the main push was by the Mining Association of Canada. While we have a number of good laws there is a complete breakdown in the ability to monitor and enforce them. We need community solidarity with both technical and legal advice."

"Since APEC people say that they are moving towards 'sustainable energy' this can only mean nuclear. We need to work together to orchestrate campaigns against uranium mining and the Candu reactor. We need to expose Placer Dome and the nuclear waste hazard."

5. **Indonesia**
"The acceleration of mining in Indonesia is very fast. The main concerns are coal and gold mining. There are 3 main problems:

(a) The mining policy of the government of Indonesia basically says that all proceeds of mining activity belong to the people of Indonesia but in practice the proceeds seem to belong to mainly transnational corporations.

(b) There is no place for traditional or small-scale mining. For example, for the Dayak people of Kalimantan mining has always been part of their life but now many go to jail

for mining and, in many cases, once arrested, their land is given to transnational corporations.
(c) There are huge environmental problems, for example, the cutting of forests, mine tailings in the rivers, and the sea now an acceptable alternative by some companies for the dumping of tailings."

"Australian and Indonesian NGOs are campaigning together about mining issues. Their strategy is to:
(a) focus on specific mines,
(b) have common research,
(c) have 2 campaigns simultaneously in Australia and Indonesia,
(d) set up local, provincial, and national networks,
(e) work on government changes in Jakarta,
(f) have letter campaigns in Australia, and
(g) bring Indonesian activists to Australia."

6. **Tibet**
"There are very serious issues, for example:
(a) environmental problems (The water resources are being polluted.),
(b) human rights' violations (Land appropriation is common.),
(c) uranium mining (This is a special concern because 50% of the world's uranium deposits are in Tibet.),
(d) political concerns (China is intent on eradicating Tibetans and increased investment in mining is part of this plan)."

7. **Vanuatu**
"A Comprehensive Reforms' Program is going on in Vanuatu to implement structural adjustment policies and to make legislative changes. These are promoted by the UNDP and the ADB. This will affect the land and the people. However there is a lack of information even for participation in these matters. The people need information to deal with the mining companies. That is why this forum is important. This seems to be a 'time' for exploration and while the companies are exploring for gold and silver the land-owners are not familiar with mining and the long-term consequences."

8. **Chile**
"There are many large mining investments recently in Chile and particularly by Canadian companies. Now 'joint ventures' are popular. In northern Chile, in the highlands, the people are especially dependent on water and the water is being taken for copper mines. This has led to forced resettlement of people. There are many social impacts. In terms of sustainability, since mining has always been an aboriginal custom, the main problem is how the mining is done. This is the direct influence on how sustainable the mining can be."

9 **USA and Australia**
"There are many issues about mining in these countries but a very important point to be made is that most new mines are on indigenous land." [Due to time constraints it was decided to not focus on mining issues in these two countries.]

10. **Japan**
"Japan is particularly interested in APEC and has technical cooperation agreements with many countries. They are looking to APEC as a way to secure sources of minerals because they do not have a large mining industry."

Mining Activities Within APEC (Nedjo Rogers, Environmental Mining Council of BC)

"Although there are only 18 economies in APEC they include a high percentage of the world's population and gross domestic product. APEC is an 'economic power' in the world and there are sharp divisions between the countries. The primary investment in mining comes from the USA, Australia, and Canada. The objectives of APEC are:

(a) to facilitate investment, and
(b) to remove barriers (for everything). Any actions taken by APEC affect mining. The Group of Experts on Minerals and Energy Exploration and Development (GEMEED) was formed and is managed under the auspices of the APEC Regional Energy Cooperation Working Group. It is based in Chile and has met three times. We should address this committee since sustainable and environmental impacts of mining are a focus of their group."

"Generally speaking the link to mining in each country is via the Energy Ministers."

Mining and its Impact (David Chambers - Centre for Science and Public Participation - Montana, USA)

"There are many technical issues and trends in 'modern mining' and [something called] 'best practices' has evolved. These changes have an incremental benefit to the environment. No mine will employ all of the 'best practices' or new technologies but usually there is a mix; the question however will always be, will 'best practices' be used to stop a mine or to improve a mine?

In a 'best practice' we should scrutinize:
(1) the probability of applying the technology successfully; for example, dealing with tailings could be relatively simple while building water treatment plants is complex;
(2) the consequences if the technology fails; and
(3) the ability of the mining company to successfully apply the technology; for example, large companies usually have a plan but the junior mining companies usually do not have the money to do it.

Some of the emerging 'best practices' are:
(1) paste backfilling,
(2) dry tailings disposal,
(3) geosynthetic clay liner (GCL).

Some examples of new technologies that have potential major drawbacks are:

(1) disposal of acid generating material (PAG) in natural lakes and rivers (This is prohibited in North America.);
(2) solvent extraction - electrowinning (SX-EW) in copper mining;
(3) passive/biologic water treatment systems;
(4) land application disposal (LAD).

It is important to note the investment practices of the mining company and what, from a policy stand-point, they want to have happen to the environment in which the mine is located."

Other Comments

1. "There should be an international convention on mining."

2. "Codes of conduct are not legally-binding."

3. "There should be sanctions on mining companies who do not meet international mining standards."

4. "We need a more wholistic perspective on mining, for example a Law of the Underground, similar to the Law of the Sea."

5. "We need to use United Nations' instruments and conventions to apply to mining activities in all countries."

6. "It is very important for the environmental movement to work with the union movement and not pit environmentalists against labour."

7. "International Commercial Arbitration (ICA) is a way to determine compensation due to damage by mining."

8. "It is not acceptable that corporations have more power than governments."

9. "The Steelworkers' Humanity Fund exists for fairness, equity and justice in mining practices, and practices fair trade principles."

10. "There is a need for global links of union to union."

11. "It is necessary to focus on secondary industries in the communities where mining takes place, e.g. at a diamond mine in the Northwest Territories, in Canada, sorting will happen locally."

12. "There is a need for consumer education; for example, 80% of the world's gold goes to jewellery and gold mining has a danger to it."

13. "Civil society should have more input into international trade."

14. "The APEC agenda should be opened to social, environmental, and human rights' groups."

15. "The APEC Ministers must be presented with case studies of damage resulting from mining."

16. "Work has been done on an international network on mining initiative s by the Environmental Mining Council of British Columbia, Project Underground (San Francisco), and the Mineral Policy Institute (Australia)."

17. "At Peoples' Summits such as this, it is very important that we be consistent from one APEC-round to the next, e.g. Manila last year, Vancouver this year, and Kuala Lumpur next year."

STATEMENT FROM THE SESSION ON MINING

Preamble:

At the Mining Session of the Sustainability Issues Forum activists from around the world gathered to make the following recommendations regarding policy options as well as commitments to building transnational citizen power to expose the mining industry in the APEC economies.

The goal is to change the mining industry into one which puts people, not profit, first.

Policy Recommendations:

(1) No exemptions to national laws should be given under the auspices of APEC. Regional economic integration should not be an excuse to exempt companies from local laws pertaining to workers' rights, indigenous peoples' rights, community rights, or the environment. The state must not give sovereignty to multinational companies at the expense of the people and the land. Where weak mining laws and regulatory frameworks have been introduced, only in order to open up countries to mining investment or make them more competitive, these laws should be repealed and replaced with systems reflecting community needs, for example, the Philippines' Mining Act of 1995.

(2) Policy frameworks and laws concerning mining should respect basic principles including: the right of fully-informed, prior consent, of communities facing mineral development, the right of self-determination and equity of indigenous communities in mining development, the land rights of indigenous people, the rights of workers, union and non-union, the right of the community around mines to a safe and healthy environment, best protected through the implementation of the highest standards of environmental management, worker and community consultation.

(3) Leaders of all governments in APEC should discipline and regulate companies unwilling to conform to equal standards of environmental and social protection in all countries in an effort to stop companies from practicing double-standards. For example, Placer Dome, a Canadian corporation, should be made to accept responsibility for comprehensive clean-up

and compensation of communities at Calancan Bay on Marindique (Marcopper mine) in the Philippines and at the Strickland river district (Porgera mine) in Papua New Guinea.

(4) None of the APEC economies (countries) should sign the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). This agreement would restrict the ability of all levels of government to act in the interests of its citizens. It would create new rules to curtail the power of democratically elected governments and to give power to appointed international tribunals.

Conclusion:
In an effort to build citizen power, to challenge the corporate dominance of the mining sector, we will: develop and support infrastructure from the grassroots' level of landowners to the mainstream policy NGOs dealing with just and sustainable mining policy and practice; work with the labour movement who have access to the mines and a model for international solidarity; develop a rapid response capacity to
(1) alert the greater community about those facing harassment, and
(2) pressure governments and companies to live up to the demands set out in this session and by civil society more generally; begin the job of 'networking' by identifying
(1) activists in communities threatened by mining,
(2) resources and resource people in NGOs working on mining issues, and
(3) ways to share the 'brain-trust' that is found amongst ourselves and others; begin to work with existing community networks who have a focus on mining, including those of women, indigenous people, human rights' organizations and labour, with the goal to expand this network; create systems to support the work of these groups and activists, including
(1) a bibliography of mining resources,
(2) a database on international mining companies and policies, and
(3) fundraising.

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SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES FORUM
FINAL REPORT

FORUM SUMMARY

The Sustainability Issues Forum (SIF) was held November 20, 1997, in Vancouver, British Columbia, as part of the Peoples' Summit on APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation). Approximately 275 people attended the SIF and its five simultaneous workshops on agriculture, aquaculture/fisheries, cities, forests and mining issues .

Participants came from various sectors and communities around the world - Asia, the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America representing local activists, fishers, farmers, academics, labour, religious ,environmental and development NGOs and the community of Vancouver.

The SIF was co-hosted by the BC Council for International Cooperation, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (Asia-Pacific Working Group) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Funded separately from the Peoples' Summit, the SIF secured diversified funding from 12 sources.

Several integrated themes emerged from the 5 workshops that indicate there are profound similarities of the impact of APEC on communities in the South and the North. Some examples of these common threads are:

The loss of sovereignty by local communities and peoples over resources and the environment, and the threats to livelihoods of millions of people, especially small scale producers.

Globalization threatens local governments and democracies and therefore there is a need to build local economies and democracies.

Several general ideas emerged in these themes which included:

+ a need to assert local culture and knowledge to fight globalization;
+ people need to increase their knowledge and understanding of the impacts of globalization and the knowledge of the current changing global framework of which APEC is one mechanism;
+ create strong links internationally to work together to promote a sustainable future;
+ pursue the over-arching value of justice which puts people first in a people-centred development process which meets basic needs such as water, education, health, clean air, and security.

Common actions emerged from the five workshops which included:

+ organizing to re-gain community control of resources and livelihoods to meet the need for re-democratization;
+ building capacity to increase knowledge to confront globalization processes;
+ increase the capacity for policy development to challenge macro-economic policies;
+ work on concreate alternatives in home countries north and south to support policy advocacy;
+ increase the sharing of information and build international communications networks by using technology, such as e-mail and the Internet. Examples identified were the development of a rapid response capacity on mining and an international agrarian reform campaign;
+ increase coalition-building and networking multi-sectorally, both North/South and South/South, to broaden debates and campaigns. There is a need to build strategic alliances and common strategies on actions such as a food security convention.

In conclusion, participants at the SIF agreed there was a need to begin working together now towards the next Peoples' Summit on APEC to be held in Malaysia in 1998. Participants would work for greater understanding and knowledge of APEC and it's role in globalization, share strategies and information multi-sectorally and internationally, and transfer all documents, including evaluations and workshops proceedings to the Peoples' Summit organizers in Malaysia for the 1998 meetings.

Proceedings from the five workshops, including recommendations, will be published and distributed separately from this narrative report.

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February 1998.

INTRODUCTION:

On November 17-24, 1997, the Peoples' Summit on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was held at the Plaza of Nations in Vancouver, B.C. Under the umbrella of the Peoples' Summit a number of international forums and other related workshops and seminars took place. Issues discussed included human rights, women, labour, and education. The Sustainability Issues Forum (SIF) held on November 20th was one of the largest of the issue forums with approximately 275 participants attending 5 simultaneous day-long workshops on agriculture, aquaculture/fisheries, cities, forests, and mining.

GOALS OF THE SIF:

1. **To determine certain policy options and alternatives related to sustainability.**

   Four general themes in the form of questions (attachment #1-conference package) were identified by the SIF Advisory Committee for all the SIF participants to discuss at the forum. For example : What is the impact of trade liberalization in terms of human rights, the environment and the local community and what were alternatives to promote sustainability. The organizers of the 5 workshops were asked to identify policy questions for their workshop in order to focus the participant's discussion in terms of APEC. The questions for each workshop are attached (conference package)

2. **To direct sustainability policy alternatives and options to the appropriate Canadian, APEC and or international entry points as follow- up from the SIF.**

   The proceedings, including the policy options, for the 5 workshops and an executive summary with recommendations is being published and distributed (available March 1998) to all SIF participants, forwarded to the organizers of the 1998 Malaysian Peoples' Summit and official APEC Summit, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, The BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, all SIF funders and other interested groups and individuals. The proceedings will be put on BCCIC's web site and linked to other web sites to reach a larger audience.

3. **To educate and make the public more aware of these sustainability issues.**

   A communications strategy was developed by the Advisory Committee. To implement such a plan a media person was contracted in Vancouver to prepare media kits , build and maintain contacts and prepare press releases in advance of the SIF (attachment #2). A media publicity report is attached with recommendations (attachment #3). A newsletter and several articles were published and a national tour of a shrimp farming photo exhibit was a

focal point of media and public awareness at the Peoples' Summit. Logistics in Vancouver were assisted by the SIF organizers. Collaboration with Vision TV to produce and air a segment on the shrimp farming exhibit , related issues and the photographer, Faris Ahmed was arranged by the SIF coordinator. Education display tables were set up and each workshop provided materials. The BCCIC web site provided information on the SIF and its deliberations, and was hot linked to other sites.

4. **To provide options and a report to forward to the parallel and official 1998 Malaysia Summits.**

The SIF proceedings include an executive summary, recommendations and reports from the 5 workshops. A participants list including, organizations, sectors, addresses, fax, telephone and e-mail addresses for each workshop will be circulated in March 1998. Copies will will be sent to the Malaysia People's Summit and the APEC official summit organizers. It will also be available on the Internet.

5. **To advance the recommendations on sustainability which came from the 1996 Manila People(s) Summits.**

There were several conferences in Manila in 1996. Attempts were made to receive reports and respect previous work and recommendations. This goal was not successful due to difficulties in locating previous information.

6. **To engage BCCIC members, southern partners and national partners in the SIF process.**

The BCCIC membership took on the role of logistical support in Vancouver. They organized some exposure tours for southerners, recruited an energetic group of youth volunteers, set up displays, assisted with refreshments, lunch and registration of up to 275 SIF participants. BCCIC members organized AV and video-taping of the final evening session. BCCIC was the conduit for finances received by the Peoples' Summit and arranged for auditing services of these funds.

BCCIC and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) - Asia /Pacific Working Group were the initial hosts of the SIF (January '97). This was a new type of collaboration for CCIC and BCCIC. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) became a partner in June '97. Although environmental groups played a significant role in workshop organizing, the overall SIF would have benefited by an environmental coalition on the Advisory committee.

Communications with southerners was primarily through e-mail, fax and the BCCIC web site, hotlinked to other web sites (Peoples Summit, CUSO, CCIC, IDRC and IISD). Each workshop leader prepared materials and

documents in advance of the SIF which were included in the conference package and distributed at registration for background reading.

PROGRAM ANALYSIS:

* A program framework was developed by the SIF advisory committee with input from workshop organizers, sometimes referred to as stream leaders.
* Each workshop then developed their own program in liaison with the SIF coordinator. Initially some workshops were more advanced in their planning than others, but each was prepared by November 20th.
* A SIF protocol was developed with input from the workshop organizers (attachment #4).
* To focus the policy research and dialogue in the months before and during the five workshops, each workshop was asked to develop policy questions. The questions were distributed before the SIF as part of the conference registration confirmation.
* To focus the workshop discussions, a common reporting format was developed and given to workshop organizers and recorders(attachment #5). This assisted editing and synthesizing the final proceedings and the integration of the policy issues from the 5 workshops.
* An opportunity for political advocacy arose during the conference. A delegation of Canadians and southerners from development and environmental sectors met the Minister of Trade, Mr. Marchi, to discuss issues of mutual concern. This was organized by the SIF in liaison with DFAIT officials.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

* The SIF was one of 10 issue forums (IFs) and seminars held during the Peoples' Summit on APEC. The SIF coordinator requested in June 1997 the start up of monthly issue forum coordinator meetings to share information and strategies, collaborate on logistics with the Peoples' Summit office and liaise with those issue forum coordinators who were also members of the national steering committee of the Peoples' Summit. This was time-consuming, but very necessary. It was also a group who worked well-together.
* The SIF was an ambitious international project. It brought together various sectors to address and bridge policy issues and needs of people-centred development with the environment.
* The role of government, corporations or media as participants or resource people in the workshops was restricted during the day sessions and a policy was developed by the Advisory and workshop organizers. It was felt the southerners would be more at ease in their discussions. The closing plenary was open and 2 BC cabinet ministers (Forests and Environment), Ambassador Bell and staff from DFAIT and Minister Axworthy's office were present.
* Because the Kyoto Conference came so quickly after APEC an additional workshop on climatic change would have been timely.
* Initially two half-time contractors were hired to coordinate the forum. In reality

they worked full time the 3 months up to the forum, thus volunteering additional time. This should be taken into consideration for future events like this forum.

* More staff time than initially budgeted for was spent on fund-raising. $89,490 was raised and the project came in on budget.
* The fact that the Asian financial crisis was occurring at the time of the APEC summit was a dynamic that influenced both the official and parallel conferences. Evening briefings by DFAIT were helpful in understanding these changes.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. The SIF did not manage to liaise with the Manila Summit(s) organizers although attempts were made to receive documents on previous sustainability issues discussions. Liaison with the Malaysian Peoples' Summit organizers is very important.

2. Policy capacity : There is a need for NGOs and academics to collaborate on research, analysis and policy development. There needs to be increased skills-training and capacity for NGOs to do policy work.

3. Differing agendas and reasons why people attend conferences should be respected, anticipated and be part of the program planning. For example a speaker's corner or seminar room for special issues and topics.

4. Multi-sector political advocacy strategies need more work.

5. Media coverage in the midst of multi- issues competition is a challenge. So is communicating complex issues to decision-makers, the media and the public.

6. An increase in knowledge of APEC and how it fits in the broader move towards globalization and trade liberalization is required.

7. Need to improve dialogue between government and corporations and NGOs (some) on some contentious issues (ie. mining) outside of major conferences.

OUTCOMES OF THE FORUM:

1. Stronger North/South linkages, North/North linkages, and South/South linkages were a result of the SIF. Resource people from Asia, the Pacific, Australia, Europe, North and South America played strong roles in the mining , forests, agriculture and aquaculture/fisheries workshops. The cities workshop was primarily northerners with expert resource people and international youth participation.

2. Increased interest, understanding and connections between people of Asia-Pacific and Canadians and British Columbians.

3. Participants recognized the need for stronger multi-sector collaborations to enrich the dialogue, strengthen the political advocacy and complement expertise.

4. Local and global issues were connected in the discussions (ie. the shrimp farming discussions combined the stronger analysis of southerners and the more local, operational experiences of BC fishers)

5. Multi-sector participation (youth, women, academics,religious, development, environment NGOs) was successful. (see participants list in proceedings)

6. Diversification of funding sources - There were 11 funders and registration fees of $50 per person proved financial support from both north and south delegates. Youth and some low income participants had their fees waived or reduced. BCCIC has new relationships to pursue with foundations, cooperatives, NGOs, the federal and provincial governments. A complete file of funders will be given to BCCIC for future reference.

7. Leadership opportunities for the youth volunteers and participants. Fifteen youth volunteered their time to assist the SIF logistics coordinator. 18 % of the SIF participants were youth.

8. Coalition-building N/N, N/S and S/S. Strong links were made between the American forest activists and those from Canada. In the mining workshop strong linkages and follow-up between Australia, the Pacific Islands, Indonesia and the Philippines.

CONCLUSION:

It is not easy to access the impact of the SIF on the official discourse of APEC. Not all participants saw this as a purpose of the SIF, but many did. Others understood the gaps of their knowledge about APEC. This resulted in limitations in meetings with government officials to discuss APEC issues. Organizations will need the capacity and time to devote to increasing their knowledge of APEC. Identifying the windows for NGOs to participate in the APEC process was difficult but many felt it was important to keep pursuing these avenues. Separate meetings with decision-makers are important and require pre-planning where possible.

Goals for forums such as the SIF should be clear with more narrowly defined outcomes. Forums such as the SIF should be clear whether the aim is to influence policy discourse, to influence public opinion and/or influence decision-makers. Organizations need support, both financial and skills-training, to pursue policy development. Integrating sustainability issues from 5 workshops is difficult in a day-long forum at an international gathering.

As an opportunity to network, share information, identify policy issues and build coalitions internationally the SIF was a success for the participants.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment	1	Conference package
	2	Media kit
	3	Media report
	4	SIF Protocol
	5	Common reporting format
	6	List of Advisory Committee, workshop leaders and staff
	7	Financial report, including list of funders

The SIF proceedings will be electronically distributed to ensure that the greatest number have access to this information. Proceedings will be available in hard copy in March 1998 and sent to each funder.

Attachment #3

RIALTO
RIALTO MEDIA GROUP

PUBLICITY REPORT

Sustainability Issues Forum

November 20th, 1997

PRESS KIT

Six press releases were researched and written for the Sustainability Issues Forum media campaign All releases were approved by the forum's editorial process on November 3rd, 1997.

The press kit included news releases on:

- General - The overall goals and themes of the forum
- Agriculture
- Aquaculture/Fisheries
- Cities
- Mining
- Forests

In addition, the press kit included information on some of the key participants in the five workshops, a schedule of events and a Sustainability Issues Forum brochure.

PRE-EVENT PRESS & MEDIA CONTACTED

Beginning November 3rd, 1997 completed press kits were sent to:

TELEVISION:

VTV

- Vicki Gabro Live
- Boni Fox
- Mike Crawly

BCTV

- Ian Haysom
- Harvey Oberfeld

Global

- Gabriel Veto
- Tim Morris

CBC

- Corey Howard - Newsworld/Pacifc Rim Report
-

Chek TV

- Dave Byro - Judy Tyabji

PRINT:

Press kits sent to :

- Ming Pao
- Sing Tao
- Vancouver Sun
- Province
- Stephen Hume - Vancouver Sun
- Paul Luke - The Province
- Globe & Mail - Miro Cernetic
- Ottawa Sun - News Wire for Sun Chain - Sean Durkan
- Georgia Straight

Fax broadcast of General Release to:

- Calgary Herald
- Toronto Star
- Ottawa Citizen
- Ottawa Sun
- Business in Vancouver
- Edmonton Journal
- Edmonton Sun
- The Evening Telegram
- The Financial Post
- The Globe & Mail
- The Montreal Gazette
- The Regina Leader
- Victoria Times Colonist
- Winnipeg Free Press
- CTV National News Bureau
- Canadian Press
- City Desk - Sun
- City Desk - Province

- Greenpeace Foundation
- News Department - BCTV
- News Department - CKNW
- News Desk - CBC Radio
- News Desk - CBC TV
- News Desk - CBC Newsworld
- News Desk - Globe & Mail
- Reuters News Service
- Georgia Straight
- Southam News Service
- Sterling News Service

In addition to national and local main media outlets, the General Release was broadcast to 230 other community media sources including: news papers and radio, community groups, activists groups, forest and wildlife interests and womens groups (a list of these is available upon request)

RADIO:

Press Kits and fax broadcast to:

- Karen Wells - CBC
- John Archer - CBC
- Coop Radio
- CFMI
- CKWX
- Kiss FM
- CFUN
- CISL
- CJVB

Te main media outlets such as the *Vancouver Sun* and *CBC* were contacted regularly for follow-up and story ideas.

To my knowledge, from the total number of story ideas pitched and the amount of information released, the Sutainability Issues Forum received direct pre-press only from Stephen Hume of the Vancouver Sun. This article was published on November 15th, 1997.

ON-SITE MEDIA:

On November 20 , 1997 the Sustainability Issues Forum received media attention from the following:

- CBC Radio - John Archer - Producer for CBC News Service
- The Province - Catherine Beavis
- The Vancouver Sun - Doug Todd
- Agence France Presse - Helen Maseratti
- Freee Lance Radio Producer - Winnipeg University Circut
- Seattle Times
- CKNW - Kerry Stefanson
- CHMB - Chinese Radio
- The Gleanor
- B.C Business
- Free Lance Radio Producer - Brad Newcombe
- CKWX

A good article was produced by Doug Todd of the Sun on Friday, Novemebr 21st. To my knowledge, the radio spots by CBC, CKNW, CHMB and CKWX were aired and there was an article published in the Seattle Times..

SUMMARY

Considering the massive amounts of information distributed to the national and local media throughout the weeks surrounding APEC, the coverage the SIF received was good. If a forum of this nature is organized again the following improvements should be taken into consideration:

1. Better information organization. Details about key speakers, organizers and workshop content should made available at least four week in advance of the forum. This is needed for interview schedules and story development.

2. More relaxed policies towards high level government officials and media. In order for the media to report your message they must hear your message.

Nov. 21/97.

THE VANCOUVER SUN, FRIDA

Environmental peril facing Canada has parallels elsewhere, forum told

The destruction of forests and fish stocks in British Columbia is similar to that in Malaysia — both regions face depletion of resources by profit-driven companies, the People's Summit hears.

DOUGLAS TODD
VANCOUVER SUN

Environmental threats facing Canada are much like those pressing on many of the 17 other economies represented in the APEC forum, a conference heard Thursday.

Parallels between the destruction of forests and fish stocks in B.C. and Malaysia attracted attention at the conference, called Towards a Sustainable Asia Pacific. It was one of several alternative APEC events at the People's Summit.

Malaysian lawyer Meena Raman said Canada and Malaysia are both resource-rich countries in danger of having their forests, fish and minerals depleted by the profit motive that drives the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Logging has claimed old-growth forests and ruined streams in Malaysia, just as they have in B.C., said Raman, of the Consumers Association of Penang.

Fish stocks and habitat are being lost in Malaysia, as they are in B.C., he said.

The trouble with APEC's free-trade agenda, said Raman and others, is that it makes it easier for corporations to exploit resources because liberalized trade puts pressure on many nations to soften their environmental regulations to compete in a global economy.

Elizabeth May, head of the Sierra Club of Canada, joined Raman in saying APEC and the North American Free Trade Agreement give ultimate power to multinationals, restrict nations' sovereignty and reduce governments' ability to use their resources to first look after their own people and environment.

Jim Jontz, executive director of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign, in the U.S., said environmentalists considered it a victory when U.S. President Bill Clinton failed this month in his effort to fast-track new international trade deals.

The sustainability conference, which drew environmentalists from around the world, was sponsored by CUSO, VanCity Savings, the Canadian International Development Agency, Inter Pares, a Roman Catholic peace organization, the provincial government and the Unitarian Services Committee.

Former B.C. premier Mike Harcourt, who is leading seminars this week on urban sustainability, said in an interview that he felt hopeful after hearing that Prime Minister Jean Chretien will speak next Tuesday about the need for APEC economies to protect the environment.

Countries such as China and Thailand, where pollution and traffic gridlock are strangling cities and causing illness, have been learning that they must address environmental issues if they hope to prosper, Harcourt said.

Harcourt is now a director with the University of B.C.'s Sustainable Development Research Institute.

His optimism that APEC economies will start including environmental concerns in their free-trade agenda contrasts sharply with some participants at the People's Summit.

Sunera Thobani, former head of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, urged total rejection of APEC and the "undemocratic" countries within it.

The People's Summit: where truth stings APEC

Stephen Hume

AT LARGE

While Asian-Pacific leaders push a crude propaganda of growth, others in Vancouver will focus on rights.

The haze from burning forests is back in Malaysia – and people who write about it can be prosecuted for discouraging some potential tourist.

Here in British Columbia, labour unions and environmentalists square off as though they were enemies, debating clearcuts and timber supply, arguing eco-tourism versus "real" resource jobs.

In Malaysia, the loggers had a free hand.

American writer Peter Matthiessen calls what happened "the gluttonous resource extraction by foreign corporations in the forests of Sarawak that is emblematic of multinational looting operations in rainforests all around the world – the new form of colonialism that destroys the life and hope of traditional peoples and diminishes the wonder of the earth."

Is there a connection between B.C. and Malaysia?

Aboriginals in Australia have recently won some stunning court decisions declaring that their traditional rights were neither absent nor extinguished at the time of European colonization.

However, deaths of aboriginals in police custody increased sharply. Since 1991, 64 aboriginal people have died in police custody and 40 more in what are called custody-related police operations, "some of them in circumstances Amnesty International believes amounted to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."

Is there a connection between the legal empowerment of a marginalized, previously disenfranchised minority and violence toward it from agents of the state?

Here in B.C., a superior court has just ruled that aboriginal people have an unextinguished interest in resources on Crown land, which raises serious questions about the moral and legal right of companies to continue logging in areas subject to land claims negotiations – even with sanction from the provincial government.

In Asia, labour organizers are routinely murdered, raped, tortured and imprisoned

At the same time, self-styled "citizen's groups" are leading a campaign to discredit treaty agreements.

Is there a connection between this backlash and the growing awareness that aboriginal rights are real and sharing of power is not an act of largesse, it's a legal obligation?

Here in B.C., the provincial government is now red hot on "clean" high-tech industries of the information age to replace "dirty" resource industries.

Let's see. The personal computer on which I'm writing this column weighs about 25 kilograms. But during its manufacture it generated 63 kilograms of waste, required 27,700 litres of water and 2,300 kilowatt hours of energy.

And in two years it will be obsolete. By 2005, 150 million computers just like it will have gone into landfills – think of them as a pile at B.C. Place around two kilometres high.

Many of the components for my computer were made by workers in Asia – where labour organizers like Dita Indah Sari, Muchtar Pakpahan, Li Wen Ming and Guo Baosheng are routinely murdered, raped, tortured and imprisoned.

Is there a moral connection between me and Asian workers through this piece of equipment? What about sustainability?

These are issues that you won't find on the agenda at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation schmooze-up next week, where Vancouver's tuxedo-clad elite will fork over $1,000-a-plate to rub elbows with the kind of chaps whose secret police intimidate dissident nuns by raping them with electric cattle prods.

Women and children are the primary victims of repressive labour codes and environmental degradation

But issues like these will certainly be on the agenda at the People's Summit on APEC, a non-government conference organized by labour unions, human rights, research and environmental groups to discuss the impact of Asian trade liberalization on women, indigenous people, worker's rights, education, the arms trade and the environment.

The People's Summit starts Monday with the Second International Women's Conference Against APEC – an appropriate kickoff considering how often women and children are the primary victims of repressive labour codes and environmental degradation.

Wednesday, a forum sponsored by Article 19 and a number of other distinguished human rights organizations will explore the conditions necessary for a free press and how to advance them.

Thursday an important forum on sustainability will examine issues surrounding fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, mining, sustainable agriculture and sustainable cities.

All these are issues are both timely and highly relevant to B.C. and Vancouver. Thank heavens somebody will be talking about them outside the smarmy propaganda of governments.

BETWEEN THE LINES

A grassroots mirror for APEC

BARBARA DUFFIELD is not the stuff of headlines. Polite and soft-spoken, she carefully pulls apart a ze blueberry muffin, wrapping half in nkin for later.

She seems like any other woman in waterside bistro full of coffee kers. But she is the only one talking ut the lack of democratic rights in nesia.

As Duffield describes what defines a il society," my mind wanders for a seconds. I am remembering a uni-sity student I met in Yogyakarta ost 15 years ago. He was reluctant to talk about his government for fear of spies and never did tell me his full name.

Indonesia's President Suharto and 17 other world leaders are meeting in Vancouver this week to talk about business and trade. They are the stuff of headlines.

Canada will spend $48 million hosting dinners, receptions and private meetings. Another $15 million is being spent on security. To understand the scale of this chin-wag by the sea, the U.S. delegation has booked the entire Waterfront Centre Hotel, all 489 rooms.

Yes, indeed. The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum has hit Vancouver. We're supposed to pay attention because these people control governments and influence economies. Their decisions carry weight. But truth be known, most regular folk will skip past the newscasts other than to maybe catch a glimpse of a Clinton or Chretien, like they would for any other celebrity.

DENISE HELM

Duffield doesn't draw attention as easily but she'll also be in Vancouver this week.

She is among dozens of Vancouver Island residents attending a parallel conference of non-profit groups and "people's organizations" from around the Asia Pacific.

The People's Summit on APEC is examining policy alternatives to APEC's trade liberalization. They want to ensure people's rights, the working poor and the environment are not trampled in the name of profit.

It's probably the biggest gathering of seriously earnest people ever in Vancouver. Pick an area — labor, the environment, human rights, youth, poverty, aboriginals, the status of women, education. They're all represented. And unlike APEC, which has only one public session, the summit is wide open.

One of the forums, on labor rights in Indonesia, was organized by Duffield.

Like most activists, Duffield has a personal connection with her concern. Duffield worked in Jakarta from 1989 to 1993 for the Indonesian government's Ministry of Population and Environment. The Canada-funded project gave technical and administrative support for pollution-control initiatives.

What Duffield came away with was a pained conscience about the obscene gap between the elite and workers, the grinding poverty, the lack of freedoms, the illegal imprisonment of government critics, and waste of international aid money on ill-conceived projects.

"It challenges your whole belief system," says Duffield, a member of the Indonesia-Canada Alliance.

"It's a responsibility for the average Canadian to know about this and pressure business and government to take more responsibility."

One the same day as Duffield's forum, a Victoria-based group is co-hosting a full-day of debate on sustainable development.

The B.C. Council for International Co-operation will bring together 250 people to strategize about five areas: agriculture, fisheries, cities, forestry and mining.

Recommendations from the Sustainability Forum, and other summit sessions, will be forwarded to the official APEC forum and governments.

But I hold little hope for their impact. Until a broad section of citizens, not just special interest groups, sit up and take notice, little will change.

We've become a society of easy labels, short headlines and quick hits. Media coverage has concentrated on APEC itself, and little of policy alternatives except the predictable image of sign-carrying protesters. It's easier for us to understand APEC's effect on local traffic congestion than the global economy.

No one has all the answers. But we must seriously assess all reasonable strategies. And that means paying attention.

Denise Helm's column appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday. She can be reached at 380-5348.

Attachment # 4

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES FORUM (SIF) - STREAM PROTOCOL

This protocol is based on the program, logistical and communications frameworks developed by the advisory and SIF working groups and stream advisor's input.

Principles:
- there are five (5) sustainability issues to be addressed at the SIF
- other issues to be included within these discussions in an integrated manner
- streams follow-up on the declarations and findings of the 1996 Manila meetings
- the policy dialogue and public awareness actions must be relevant to APEC
- streams are committed to international outreach
- geographic and gender balance in participation at the SIF

Organization:
- the SIF begins at 8:30 am and ends at 9pm on November 20th in the BC Room of the Plaza of Nations
- in addition the SIF has three break-out rooms for stream discussions
- the BC room will hold approximately 250 people at roundtables
- the opening plenary will have a presenter/speaker from each of the 5 streams
- the SIF will be responsible for organizing logistical support for November 20th (roundtables, AV, display tables, etc., refreshments and a light lunch)
- the SIF will provide facilitators and recorders for each of the roundtables
- the streams organize the discussions for November 20th (questions,etc.)
- each stream (and other sustainability issues if requested) will organize the display/ table for their issue

Program:
- a program framework has been developed for the SIF and is outlined on the SIF brochure
- streams will provide discussion questions for the policy dialogue roundtables
- streams will assist with speakers for the streams and the overall SIF program
- the program task group will approve, co-chairs, speakers and presenters

Participation:
- the People's Summit (PS) on APEC is an international conference
- the PS requests that 50% of the participants be from the south and 54% be women
- there may be some officials (CIDA, etc.) as observers
- there may be some members of the press attending
- youth to be included as participants and volunteers

Registration:
- The SIF, through the BCCIC office, will be responsible for the SIF registration.
- streams will provide names and coordinates to the BCCIC office (address, fax, e-mail, etc.) for people (south and north) who should receive registration packages.
- each stream could have at least 50 participants (25 from the south, 26 women)
- the SIF registration fee is $50. per participant (includes participant lists, forum packages, lunch, refreshments)
- registered SIF participants need to be registered with the PS as well ($25).

Funding:
- the SIF will work with the PS to secure sponsorship assistance for SIF participants
- the SIF will assist with speakers and presenters fees, also facilitators and recorders.
- each stream will be provided with up to $2,000 for communications, honorariums and other expenses related to the November 20th forum (subject to funding)
- a financial report for the $2,000 will be provided by each stream to the SIF coordinator for final reporting to funders
- stream advisors will assist with travel expenses for southern delegates where possible

Media:

- the SIF has a communications strategy and plan for activities before, during and after the SIF
- the SIF coordinator will liaise with the streams and spokes people re media
- press kits on the SIF will be sent out prior to the forum
- members of the press will be invited to the SIF
- individual streams may wish to do their own media - this would be done in communication with the SIF (and other streams) to provide consistent messages
- the PS will have a media room to which the SIF has access
- spokespersons for sustainability will be identified - streams to suggest names
- stream advisors/leaders will be available for media outreach on their issue
- a statement at the conclusion of the SIF will be developed & presented to the press

People's Summit Final Plenary:

- approximately 20 people from the SIF will be selected by the SIF to attend the PS Final Plenary
- SIF representatives to the Final Plenary will forward the recommendations on sustainability from the SIF
- to reach the maximum of 20 SIF participants to the PS Final Plenary, the SIF needs to reach 50% participation from the south

Communications:
- streams advisors/leaders will participate in conference calls and planning sessions
- streams will provide their meeting minutes to the SIF coordinator
- the SIF coordinator will liaise with 1 - 2 people from each stream during the planning - streams to identify who those people will be

NB. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), CUSO, BCCIC and CCIC will assist with outreach and external communications for the SIF (web-pages, newsletters, etc.) It is hoped the church networks will also assist. Stream advisors/leaders would be available to provide input on the sustainability issues as relevant to APEC to these organizations.

September 12, 1997.

Attachment #5

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES FORUM
November 20, 1997.

Agriculture, Aquaculture/Fisheries, Cities, Forests, Mining

WORKSHOP REPORTS:

The following reporting format for each of the 5 workshops is intended to:

+ provide a basis of consistency across the 5 sustainability workshops
+ allow for easier analysis of and among the 5 workshop reports
+ Assist with identification and integration of policy options and themes
+ link the workshop themes to the official APEC process
+ identify implementation strategies, critical and emerging issues and alternatives and follow-up actions between the "97 Canadian and "98 Malaysian APEC meetings.

Although additional information and categories to the format are welcome, workshop recorders are asked to follow the outline below. This will result in an easier task for the 5 workshop recorders, the reader group for each of the workshop reports and the SIF coordinator in the compilation of the over-all SIF final report.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Background to the workshop issue ie. mining
   Narrower topics within the workshop issues

BODY OF THE REPORT:

2. Discussions and summaries of the workshop

3. Link the workshop to the official APEC process

OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP:

4. Emerging alternatives

5. Policy options/recommendations (include consensus and dissent, and analysis) A summary.

6. What are the messages for APEC leaders

7. Follow-up to the workshop
   Critical issues for collaboration
   Strategies of working together
   Actions of working together in preparation for the Malaysia APEC meetings

PARTICIPANTS:

List the name and sector (youth, academic, development NGO, indigenous, environmental NGO, labour, etc.) in alphabetical order.

Attachment #6

Sustainability Issues Forum:

Advisory Committee

Marion Villanueva, PDAP
Bill Westhead, Mountain Equipment Coop
Karen Smith, CoDevelopment & BCCIC
David Love, USC
Peter Gillespie, Inter Pares
Debby Cote, CUSO
Gauri Sreeivasan, CCIC

Coordinator
Dawn McLean

Logistics
Tarah Wilson, BCCIC

Workshop Organizers (stream leaders)

Agriculture:
Marion Villanueva, PDAP
Annette Desmarais, OGAP-OXFAM Global Agriculture
Nettie Weibe, National Farmer's Union
Jean Christie,RAFI
Jess Augustan, CCODP

Aquaculture/Fisheries:
Peter Gillespie, Inter Pares
Debby Cote, CUSO
Mae Burrows, T.Buck Suzuki Foundation
Angela Rickman, Sierra Club

Sustainable Cities:
Art Wright, SDRI, University of BC

Forests:
Fiona Koza, Sierra Club
Paige Fisher, PERC, California
Marty Horswell, KCFA

Mining:
Nedjo Rodgers, BC Mining Council
Myriam Cabera, CoDevelopment
Stuart Wulff, SPPF